



County Borough of Reading

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1954

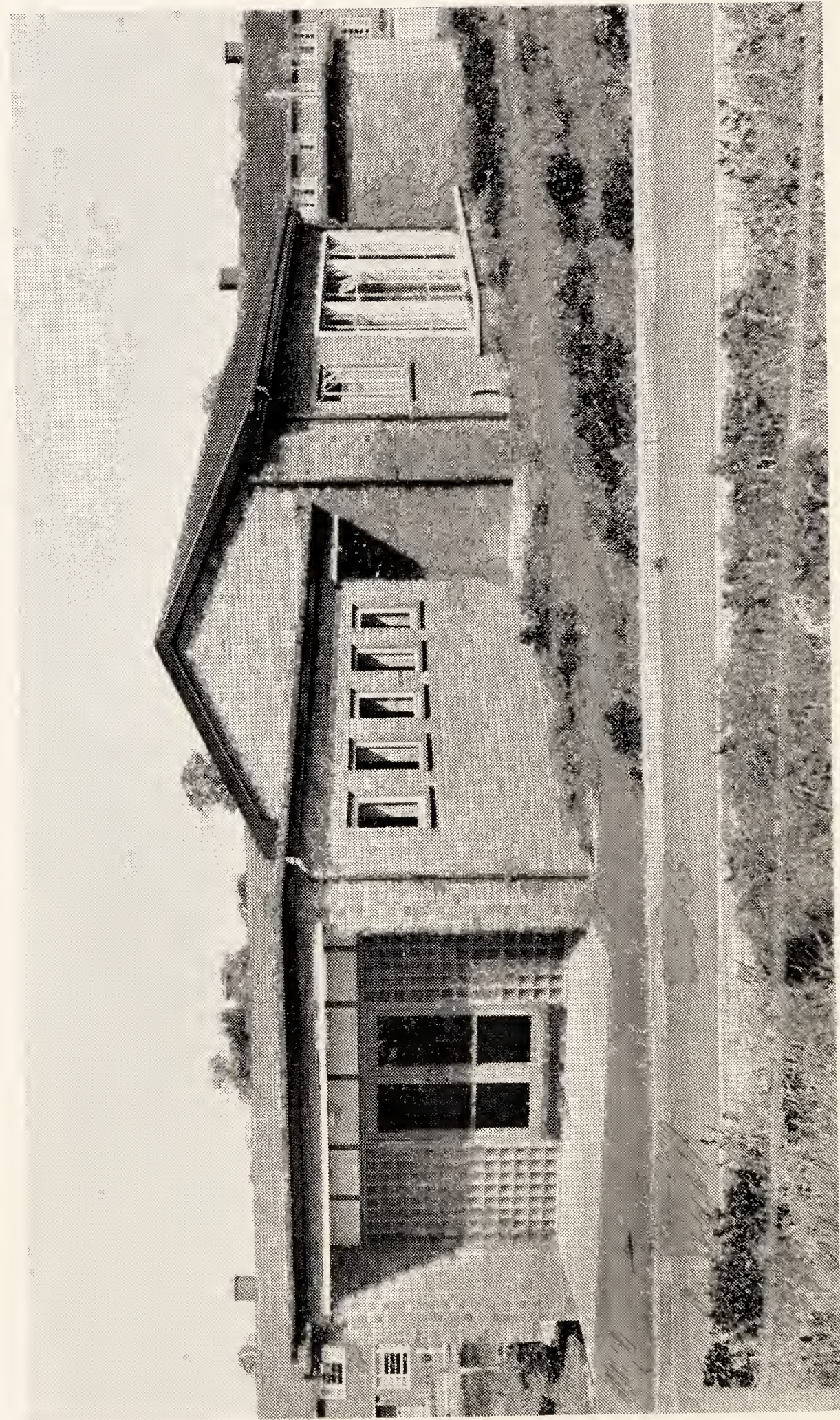
By

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H.



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NEW CLINIC, SOUTHCOTE HOUSING ESTATE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

(December 31st, 1954)

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. E. Smith)

Aldermen :

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK	WILLIAM MATTHIAS NEWHAM
THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART	

Councillors :

WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM	IRIS BOZIER BUTCHER
ALICE JEANNETTE BURROWS	JAMES CYRIL HARRY BUTCHER
ALFRED HASLAM	(Chairman)
EDITH ELLA LOVETT	GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND
EDITH MORRIS	LILIAN MARY MILLER (Vice-Chairman)
JAMES PHILIPS WALLACE	HENRY GEORGE WHEELER
PERCY BELCHER	DOREEN MAY DITCHBURN
REGINALD ffolliott HASLUCK	CHARLES ALF LANGFORD

Non-Members of the Council :

NANCY A. SHARP	CLAUD VERITY GLEDHILL,
	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
CYRIL FRANCIS WRIGHT,	EDWARD BASIL BERRY,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
H. WILLIAMS, M.P.S.	

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1954

Medical Officer of Health :

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

G. M. O'DONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H. (commenced April 10th, 1954)

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers :

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G.

ROSA M. PIGGOT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare :

A. J. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.

P. SYMONS, M.B., Ch.B.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Public Analyst :

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

J. GREEN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. SYRAD, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors :

E. L. W. GEEN

D. T. LEWIS

H. MORTIMORE

D. F. HUGHES

P. McCANDLISH

Superintendent Health Visitor and Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives :

Miss E. V. LEE

* Health Visitors :

Miss M. J. LOMAS

Miss H. A. MORTIMER

*Miss R. BROMLEY (commenced July 21st, 1954)

*Miss R. M. UPTON

*Miss F. CLARK (commenced Sept. 20th, 1954)

Mrs. KINGSLEY (part-time)

Miss E. LLOYD (commenced April 26th, 1954)

*Miss O. M. JARVIS

*Miss M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

(commenced May 1st, 1954)

(commenced July 21st, 1954)

Miss E. M. MILNER

(commenced October 11th, 1954)

* Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

Tuberculosis Visitors :

Miss E. V. GAGGIOTTI (commenced October 11th, 1954)

Mrs. L. E. MEDWAY (commenced October 18th, 1954)

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer :

Miss L. M. FOSTER-CARTER

Family Caseworker :

Miss A. ROSS

Municipal Midwives :

Miss E. J. ODELL
Miss V. GARRIGAN

Mrs. R. M. TEAL
Mrs. Y. M. TROTTIER

Miss M. A. LANGTRY
(commenced Dec. 20th, 1954)

Premature Baby Nurse :

Miss S. K. BARRACK, S.C.M.

Mental Deficiency Officer :

Miss J. M. ROBB

Psychiatric Welfare Officer :

F. B. MARTIN

Duly Authorised Officers :

C. E. HOUSE

D. H. COMERFORD (relief) Miss J. ROBB (relief)

Chief Clerk :

C. I. AUST

Domestic Help Service :

(Assistant Organisers)
Mrs. D. M. JONES Mrs. H. A. FINCH

Occupation Centre :

Miss E. M. BARKAS (Supervisor)

Superintendent, Queen Victoria Institute :

Miss A. M. HINKSMAN

Day Nurseries :

Holybrook House : Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)
Victoria Square : Mrs. B. GELL (Matron)

Blind Welfare Officer :

Miss M. L. LOWE

Home Teachers for the Blind :

Miss A. E. SMITH

Mrs. M. E. P. HODGE

Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948 :

G. E. TURNBULL

" Woodlands " Old People's Home :

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

" Wychcotes " and " Warren House " Old People's Homes :

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Matron)

" Parkhurst " Old People's Home :

A. E. SLATER (Superintendent)

" Southern Hill " Old People's Home :

W. J. HOLLAND (Superintendent)

Arthur Clark Home, 3 Albert Road :

Mrs. E. A. CHANDLER, Attendant in Charge (commenced December 13th, 1954)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
READING.

May, 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1954. A good deal of comment will be found in the body of the Report and therefore I will only make mention of one or two matters of general interest in this Introduction.

In the administration of the National Health Service Act the year, on the whole, reveals a record of satisfactory, although unspectacular development. The new infant welfare clinic was opened on the Southcote Estate and discussions were started on the necessity for a similar clinic at Tilehurst. Close liaison was maintained with the hospitals and steps were taken to improve co-operation between general practitioners and health visitors. Demands on the Domestic Help Service continued to grow and special reference has been made to this in the body of the Report.

Consideration of the provision of suitable accommodation for the aged occupied a good deal of our time. I have made special reference to the Liaison Committee which was set up between the Health Committee and the Housing Committee and I would pay tribute to the sympathetic manner in which my observations have been received. Plans were advanced for the extension of Parkhurst and the building of a new Home at Liebenrood Road. At the time of writing the work on the extension is in hand and I am hoping that work on the new Home will commence before the end of 1955.

In my comments on the provision of old people's Homes I have made mention of the difficulty of recruiting adequate and suitable staff. This shortage of staff extends to practically all branches of our work and may, indeed, prove a serious handicap to the satisfactory execution of our Local Authority duties. It is well known that doctors are refusing to enter the Local Government Service as a career, although we are getting to the stage when there is almost a surplus of doctors in the country. To a lesser extent the same applies to nursing and midwifery staff. There is an absolute shortage of dentists which looks like continuing for many years and it is regrettable to have to report that repeated advertising has

failed to secure any applicants. The shortage of sanitary inspectors is notorious. Recent decisions of the National Joint Council have added to our difficulty in recruiting suitable clerical and non-technical staff.

I have mentioned this shortage of staff at many Committee meetings and I feel that the matter is so serious that I am justified in reporting it formally in the introduction to my Report and to urge the Council to utilise to the full any discretion which is allowed to it in matters of salary and conditions of employment (including accommodation) and not to be too bound by consideration of precedent or recommendations of other bodies.

For these reasons I must pay a great tribute to the hard work and loyalty of such staff as we have and to thank them for the support they have given me during the year. Last, but not least, I would like to express my appreciation of the support which has been given to me by all members of the Health Committee.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

					1954	1953
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1954)	...			...	118,300	117,700
Area Comparability Factor—						
Births	...	...	...	...	1.01	.99
Deaths	...	...	...	...	0.91	.94
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31.12.54						
	...	...			32,310	31,250
Rateable Value (31.12.54)	...	...			£1,184,276	£1,166,957
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...			£4,767	£4,706
Total cost of Services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee for the year ended March 31st, 1953 :—						
Expenditure	...	...	...		£240,627	£232,332
Income	...	...	...		£53,954	£55,476
<i>Birth Rate</i>						
*Live Births :—	<i>Total</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>	<i>per 1,000 pop.</i>
Legitimate	1620 (1,574)		834 (822)		786 (752)	13.69 (13.37)
Illegitimate	58 (101)		26 (52)		32 (49)	0.49 (0.86)
Total	1,678 (1,675)		860 (874)		818 (801)	14.18 (14.23)
*Infant deaths under one year :—						
Legitimate	...	...	...		43	(33)
Illegitimate	...	...	...		6	(—)
Total	...	...	...		49	(33)
*Death-rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births :—						
Legitimate	...	...	...		26.54	(20.97)
Illegitimate	...	...	...		10.34	(—)
Total	...	...	...		29.20	(19.70)
Deaths of infants under one month	...				36	(21)
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...		21.45	(12.54)
*Number of stillbirths	...		...		29	(39)
*Rate per 1,000 births (total births)					17.28	(22.75)
*Number of domiciliary stillbirths	...				10	(10)
*Deaths—Net	...	...	...		1,246	(1,255)

Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	10·53	(10·66)
Number of Marriages	...	...	1,000	(958)

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :—

From sepsis	...	...	—	(—)
From other causes	...	...	1	(3)
Total	...	...	1	(3)
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	·58	(1·75)
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...		249	(251)
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...		—	(—)
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)			—	(—)
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			2	(6)

Tuberculosis deaths :—

Pulmonary	...	...	6	(20)
Non-pulmonary	...	...	2	(4)
All forms...	...	...	8	(24)

Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 population) :—

Pulmonary	...	...	0·05	(0·17)
Non-pulmonary	...	...	0·02	(0·03)
All forms	...	...	0·07	(0·20)

Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population—		
Births—		
Live births	14·18	15·20
Still births	0·24	0·36
Still births per 1,000 total births	17·28	23·30
Deaths—		
All causes	10·53	11·3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00
Whooping cough	0·00	0·01
Diphtheria	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis	0·07	0·20
Influenza	0·00	0·21
Smallpox	0·00	0·00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0·00	0·02
Pneumonia	0·68	0·43
Notifications (corrected)—		
Typhoid	0·00	0·00
Paratyphoid	0·00	0·01
Meningococcal infections	0·00	0·02
Scarlet fever	0·87	0·97
Whooping cough	0·68	2·40
Diphtheria	0·00	0·03
Erysipelas	0·19	0·12
Smallpox	0·00	0·00
Measles	1·09	3·99
Pneumonia... ..	0·37	0·59
Acute Poliomyelitis (including encephalitis)—		
Paralytic	0·00	0·03
Non-paralytic	0·00	0·14
Food poisoning	0·08	0·24
Puerperal pyrexia	32·96	27·6
Rates per 1,000 Live Births—		
Deaths—		
All causes under 1 year of age	29·20	25·3
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1·19	0·7
Maternal Mortality : Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births—		
Maternal causes, excluding abortion	0·58	0·58
Due to abortion	0·00	0·11
Total maternal mortality	0·58	0·69

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1954

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens					Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Sutton's Seed Trial Grounds		
	Rainfall in inches	Temperature				Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine
		Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	Mean Humidity*		
January ...	1.27	57	21	43.16	34.58	86.06	2.27	27%
February ...	2.32	55	22	43.29	34.86	92.96	2.44	24%
March ...	2.20	62	23	51.00	38.84	87.29	3.44	28%
April ...	.23	64	30	57.17	37.87	81.50	6.73	49%
May ...	3.43	82	34	62.74	45.45	80.84	4.72	30%
June ...	3.95	76	37	66.40	49.73	83.70	4.94	29%
July ...	2.56	74	43	67.16	51.32	80.84	5.11	32%
August ...	3.01	79	45	68.16	52.71	87.16	4.39	30%
September ...	1.43	85	34	66.27	48.73	90.77	5.65	45%
October ...	1.89	68	28	61.52	48.65	88.35	2.73	26%
November ...	4.79	60	27	52.37	37.80	91.57	2.04	23%
December ...	2.41	58	26	49.74	39.06	87.61	1.80	23%
	29.49					Year	3.85	32%

* As recorded at 9.0 a.m. daily

CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH		All ages	All ages		0-1		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 and Over	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	..	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—
2—Tuberculosis (other forms)	..	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—Syphilitic disease	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4—Diphtheria	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—Whooping Cough	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—Meningococcal Infections	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8—Measles	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	32	14	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	4	4	7	3	7
11—" " Lung, bronchus	..	46	39	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22	5	12	2	4	4
12—" " Breast	..	34	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	8	—	—	9
13—" " Uterus	..	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	2
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	132	75	57	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	5	21	17	23	15	27	19
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	7	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	—
16—Diabetes	..	13	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	2	7
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	170	67	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	13	23	26	31	63
18—Coronary disease, angina	..	139	75	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	18	12	27	24	28	28
19—Hypertension with heart disease	..	20	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	3	4	5
20—Other heart disease	..	191	75	116	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	9	5	22	18	42	92
21—Other circulatory diseases	..	71	31	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	10	21	28
22—Influenza	..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
23—Pneumonia	..	80	42	38	5	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	4	8	7	21	22
24—Bronchitis	..	44	28	16	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	10	3	11	11
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	..	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	2
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	24	20	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	5	1	6	3
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	10	4	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	2
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	..	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1	—	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	..	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion, etc.	..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—Congenital malformations	..	11	5	6	3	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	..	85	40	45	5	9	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	4	7	6	12	5	13	20
33—Motor vehicle accidents	..	19	12	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	1	3	—	1	2	1	1
34—All other accidents	..	33	16	17	7	5	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	3	4	6
35—Suicide	..	12	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	2	1	1	—	—
36—Homicide and operations of war	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS..	..	1218	594	624	22	25	2	3	4	2	5	4	22	21	144	101	168	140	228	327
			1218		47		5		6		9		43		245		308		555	

WARD POPULATION

We have received the returns of the 1951 Census and the following information will be of interest :—

Ward	Totals		Males		Females		Structurally Separate Dwellings Occupied	
	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951
Abbey ...	3,245	2,690	1,539	1,399	1,706	1,291	727	623
Battle ...	9,272	8,071	4,535	3,946	4,737	4,125	2,140	2,193
Castle ...	5,587	5,295	2,645	2,490	2,942	2,805	1,233	1,231
Caversham East	6,217	7,360	3,029	3,488	3,188	3,872	1,463	2,086
Caversham West	5,529	8,414	2,426	3,736	3,103	4,678	1,517	2,462
Church ...	11,620	24,340	5,452	11,781	6,168	12,559	2,649	6,073
East ...	11,298	10,739	5,219	4,880	6,079	5,859	3,006	3,212
Katesgrove ...	7,759	6,221	3,807	2,931	3,952	3,290	1,918	1,895
Minster ...	3,917	3,051	1,853	1,420	2,064	1,631	881	874
Redlands ...	5,310	5,516	2,298	2,484	3,012	3,032	1,314	1,375
Tilehurst ...	13,954	18,611	6,830	9,020	7,124	9,591	3,073	4,856
Victoria ...	5,788	5,145	2,730	2,480	3,058	2,665	1,292	1,265
West ...	7,653	8,743	3,518	3,949	4,135	4,794	1,902	2,593
Totals...	97,149	114,196	45,881	54,004	51,268	60,192	23,115	30,738

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE AND ROOMS OCCUPIED IN SHARED DWELLINGS

Households	1 Room	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms	7 Rooms	8 or 9 Rooms	10 or + Rooms	Total Households	Total Persons in House- holds	Total Rooms Occupied
1	587	453	341	115	20	7	3	2	1	1,529	1,529	3,169
2	255	957	598	206	52	24	13	4	—	2,109	4,218	5,316
3 (*)	170	469	376	177	93	28	6	1	3	1,323	3,969	3,670
4	69	174	181	113	52	30	3	2	—	624	2,496	1,890
5	9	39	62	61	31	16	6	6	—	230	1,150	860
6	2	12	24	19	18	7	3	3	—	88	528	351
7+	2	6	18	23	17	7	7	2	4	86	677	396
Total Households	1,094	2,110	1,600	714	283	119	41	20	8	5,989		
Total Persons	1,955	4,781	3,979	2,102	1,009	436	180	84	41		14,567	
Total Rooms	1,094	4,220	4,800	2,856	1,415	714	287	165	101			15,652

Explanatory Notes :—1—This table was not included in the 1931 Census.

2.—This table cannot be broken down by age groups

Definition. The term "Household" 1951 Census, replaces the term "Family" 1931 Census

Explanation. In 1951, 170 single rooms were occupied by families consisting of three in number

(*) 469 families consisting of 3 persons occupied 2 rooms, 376 families of 3 persons occupied 3 rooms, and so on.

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN ALL DWELLINGS BY SIZE AND ROOMS OCCUPIED, 1931 and 1951

Number of Persons in Household	1 Room		2 Rooms		3 Rooms		4 Rooms		5 Rooms		6 Rooms		7 Rooms		8 or 9 Rooms		10 & over Rooms		Total Households	
	1931		1931		1931		1931		1931		1931		1931		1931		1931		1931	
	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951
1	351	656	329	589	214	508	246	585	235	849	*	210	*	47	*	28	*	8	1561	3480
2	135	288	785	1156	540	1146	1012	1813	1751	3646	*	882	*	224	*	121	*	12	5788	9288
3	51	193	494	544	494	961	1070	1738	2208	3736	*	868	*	217	*	145	*	23	6354	8425
4	31	85	209	212	342	526	830	1325	1797	3177	*	798	*	216	*	126	*	24	4939	6489
5	5	14	57	47	188	222	507	663	1340	1735	*	442	*	135	*	109	*	14	3129	3381
6	1	4	30	15	108	91	311	289	771	780	*	224	*	87	*	78	*	22	1812	1590
7	2	1	14	5	36	50	177	131	416	334	*	117	*	38	*	33	*	13	923	722
8	—	1	2	3	24	8	81	65	231	138	*	56	*	25	*	21	*	7	488	324
9	—	—	2	—	7	7	44	19	87	79	*	26	*	16	*	8	*	6	211	161
10+	—	—	—	—	6	5	38	25	118	59	*	26	*	23	*	9	*	3	217	150
Total Household	576	1242	1922	2571	1959	3524	4316	6653	8954	14533	*	3649	*	1028	*	678	*	132	25422	34010
Total Persons	943	2260	4814	5765	6299	9975	15833	21662	35707	50206	*	13129	*	4082	*	2791	*	633	*	110503
Rooms Occupied	576	1242	3844	5142	5877	10572	17264	26612	44770	72665	*	21894	*	7196	*	5587	*	1436	*	152346

Note—* Figures for these numbers of rooms, not shown in the 1931 Census

STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS, ROOMS AND HOUSEHOLDS, 1931 and 1951

Dwellings Occupied by	1 Room		2 Rooms		3 Rooms		4 Rooms		5 Rooms		6 Rooms		7 Rooms		8 or 9 Rooms		10 & over Rooms		Total all Sizes	
	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951	1931	1951
1 Private Household	25	148	222	462	805	1926	3672	5949	8756	14297	*	3566	*	997	*	672	*	126	21100	28143
2 Private Households	—	—	4	8	5	34	166	214	752	1000	*	458	*	241	*	187	*	33	1806	2175
3 Private Households	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	22	47	*	72	*	84	*	139	*	68	209	420
Total Dwellings Occupied	25	148	226	470	810	1960	3840	6173	9530	15344	*	4096	*	1322	*	998	*	227	23115	30738
Dwellings Wholly Vacant— Furnished	2	6	5	19	9	27	23	57	86	137	*	44	*	23	*	14	*	2	279	329
Other	—	1	7	7	18	18	45	59	79	78	*	20	*	10	*	15	*	3	369	211
Total Dwellings— Occupied and Vacant	27	155	238	496	837	2005	3908	6289	9695	15559	*	4160	*	1355	*	1027	*	232	23768	31278
Total Private Households Therein	25	148	230	478	815	1994	4010	6407	10331	16446	*	4710	*	1766	*	1539	*	522	25422	34010
Miscellaneous Habitations incl. Houseboats and Caravans																			341	191

Note—* Figures for these numbers of rooms, not shown in the 1931 Census

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS by DENSITY OF OCCUPATION
(Persons per Room)

Households in all dwellings at successive densities				Numbers of households in shared dwellings at successive densities				Population in all households at successive densities				
Total	Over 3		1 or less	Over 3		1 or less	Total	Over 3		1 or less	Total	
	3 and Over 2	2 and Over 1½		3 and Over 2	2 and Over 1½			3 and Over 2	2 and Over 1½			
34010	122	397	1287	3400	28804		5989	89	243	542	770	4345
											110503	624
											2237	6982
											17889	82771

Note—This table was not shown in the 1931 Census

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY MARITAL CONDITION
AGE AND SEX OF HEAD

Numbers of Households with Heads as follows																				
Total Households	Married (either sex) and aged			Non Married under age 40 (either sex)	Non-married 40-59			Non-married Males aged 60 and over												
	All ages	Under 40	60 and Over		Single	Widowed and 'Divorced'	Single	Widowed and 'Divorced'	Single	Widowed and 'Divorced'	Single									
				25392								7664	12162	5566	603	303	271	197	1047	757	1196	863	3381
	34010																			

Note—This table was not shown in the 1931 Census

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS according to possession of certain HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENTS

Households sharing Dwellings and Occupying	Total Number of Households	Households with Household Arrangements as follows :— (E=having exclusive use ; S=sharing with another household ; N=entirely without)											
		Piped Water			Cooking Stove			Kitchen Sink			Water Closet		
		Households	Per	Cent	Households	Per	Cent	Households	Per	Cent	Households	Per	Cent
		S	N	S or N	S	N	S or N	S	N	S or N	S	N	S or N
1 Room	1094	966	10	89	715	142	78	798	137	85	984	5	90
2 Rooms	2110	1769	12	84	1437	45	70	1527	127	78	1825	8	87
3 Rooms	1600	1219	1	76	927	17	59	1000	47	65	1213	2	76
4/5 Rooms	997	657	3	66	432	2	44	494	14	51	625	2	63
6 and + Rooms	188	100	—	53	57	1	31	61	—	32	99	—	53
Total	5989	4711	26	79	3568	207	63	3880	325	70	4746	17	80
1 Room 2 Rooms 3 Rooms 4/5 Rooms 6 and + Rooms Total		All five Arrangements E			Stove and Sink E			Bath S or N, other four Arrangements E			Sink S or N, Water Closet S or N		
		Households	Per	Cent	Households	Per	Cent	Households	Per	Cent	Households	Per	Cent
		39	4		149	14		21	2		922	84	
		78	4		445	21		107	5		1627	77	
		110	7		544	34		139	9		1017	64	
4/5 Rooms 6 and + Rooms Total		150	15		485	49		110	11		478	48	
		55	29		125	66		17	9		59	31	
		432	7		1748	29		394	7		4103	69	

The following table gives an idea of the size of the problem of elderly people in our midst :—

AGES (QUINARY) BY MARITAL CONDITION

Age last Birthday	Persons	MALES					FEMALES				
		Total	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced
60-64	5,741	2,523	193	2,120	197	13	3,218	521	1,846	831	20
65-69	4,994	2,103	172	1,642	280	9	2,891	442	1,379	1,058	12
70-74	3,919	1,601	98	1,133	365	5	2,318	380	843	1,091	4
75-79	2,650	1,065	61	624	379	1	1,585	258	407	918	2
80-84	1,373	472	23	223	225	1	901	141	140	619	1
85-89	537	152	11	56	85	—	385	77	31	277	—
90-94	143	46	2	10	33	1	97	14	8	75	—
95-+	21	2	—	1	1	—	19	2	—	17	—

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE, ETC.

[illegible]

SOCIAL GROUP—

I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	23
II	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87	109
III <i>a</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
<i>b</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	33	26
<i>c</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	33	36
<i>d</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	6	12
<i>e</i>			...	...	...	...	...	242	217
IV <i>a</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	16	20
<i>b</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	57	58
V <i>a</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	15	17
<i>b</i>		...	...	...	...	...	...	85	86
No Occ.		...	...	...	...	...	...	8	37

INDUSTRIAL STATUS—

Employers	...	...	...	...	...	17	14
Managers	...	...	...	...	...	3	8
Branch Managers	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Managers of Offices, etc.			...	...	...	8	5
Own Account	...	...	...	...	...	50	53
Operative	...	...	...	...	...	517	521
Apprentice	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Part-time	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Unpaid Family Worker	...		...	...	...	—	—
Out of Work	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
No Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	8	37
Retired	...	...	...	...	...	359	52
Not Applicable		...	...	...	...	10	2
Housewife	...	...	...	...	...	—	194
Widow	...	...	...	...	...	—	308
Dependant Child	...	...	...	...	...	30	33
Other	...	...	...	...	...	—	52

ELECTORAL WARD—

Abbey	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	13
Battle	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	38
Castle	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	28
Caversham East	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	43

ELECTORAL WARD—*contd.*

							Male	Female
Caversham West	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	53
Church	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	95
East	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	90
Katesgrove	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	38
Minster	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	26
Redlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	28
Tilehurst	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	84
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	37
West	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	68

PLACE OF DEATH—

Own Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	297	365
Royal Berkshire Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	53
Battle Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	100
Other Chronic Sick Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	99	61
Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Mental Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Part III Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
Nursing Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	21
Maternity Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	28

ADDRESS AT DEATH—

Inside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	523	588
Outside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	82	53

Employment. I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information :—

The total number of insured workpeople in the Reading area was estimated in June, 1953, to be approximately 56,000 (this is the latest figure available). These are employed in a wide variety of industries, but mainly in the following :—

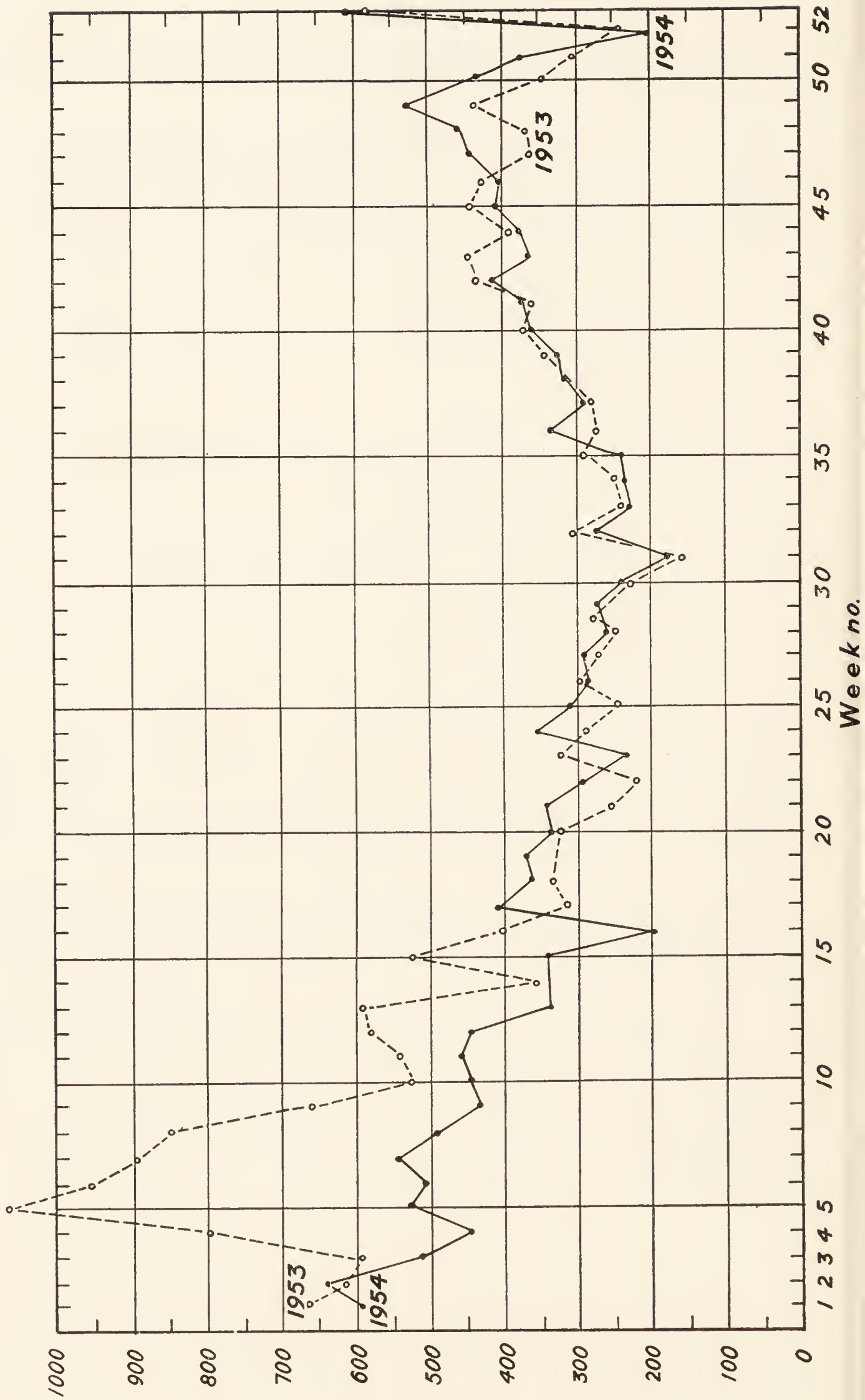
Agriculture (including seed production)
 Biscuit Manufacture
 Brewing and Malting
 Building
 Distributive Trades
 Engineering (including Aircraft, Metal Goods
 and Vehicle Manufacture)
 Furniture and Shop Fittings
 Government Service (National and Local)
 Hotel and Catering
 Printing and Publishing
 Tailoring
 Transport (Road and Rail)

For some years there has been a shortage of labour in the area. This became more acute during 1954 and from June to December there was an average of nearly 1,000 unfilled vacancies for men and women recorded at the Reading Employment Exchange.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at quarterly dates during 1954 are given below, together with totals at similar dates in 1953 for comparison :—

<i>Date (1954)</i>							<i>(1953 Totals for Total Comparison)</i>	
			<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>		
March	...	...	303	189	11	15	518	681
June	...	...	259	144	9	10	422	513
September	...	...	215	131	35	25	406	561
December	...	...	187	121	18	8	334	443

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK, 1954
(Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

(A) *GENERAL*

There have been no material changes in the administration of the Department or of the Committee duties since the matter was fully reported in my report for 1952.

(B) *PARTICULAR SERVICES*

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

Sites for health centres, in combination with infant welfare clinics, have been earmarked at Tilehurst, Norcot, Battle, and Palmer Park. The new infant welfare clinic in the Southcote housing estate was opened on Wednesday, May 5th ; a reasonable amount of land has been left available for further development as a health centre should this be required. Work was commenced on the erection of a specially built house and surgery for a general practitioner on the Southcote housing estate. This will be rented to a general practitioner selected by the Executive Council ; the rent will be a sub-economic rent for the first three years.

SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) *Expectant and Nursing Mothers*

Ante-natal Clinics. The decrease in attendances which I reported in 1953 continued. One session at the Star Lane Clinic was suspended and although a special session was arranged at the new Southcote Clinic the attendances have been disappointing. This does not mean to say, of course, that expectant mothers are not receiving the necessary ante-natal supervision. This, in fact, is being done by the general practitioners and we have been able to establish a fairly satisfactory method of interchange of information between the midwives and the general practitioners. At present there seems very little future for medical sessions at municipal ante-natal clinics. Midwives hold sessions as follows :—

Star Lane	Monday afternoons
	Friday afternoons (for Q.V.I.)
	Saturday afternoons (ante-natal exercises)
Southcote	Tuesday afternoons
Whitley	Alternate Thursday afternoons

SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1905

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1905	78,105	1,986	25.43	236	118.8	3	4	3.6	1,022	13.08
1906	79,559	1,882	23.66	217	115.3	4	6	5.3	1,016	12.77
1907	81,040	1,806	22.28	164	90.8	4	8	6.6	983	12.13
1908	82,549	1,847	22.37	182	98.5	1	4	2.7	963	11.66
1909	84,085	1,744	20.74	166	95.2	4	4	4.6	962	11.44
1910	84,355	1,673	19.83	126	75.3	3	4	4.2	844	10.00
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	—	—	—	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	—	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	—	—	—	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	—	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	—	1	0.58	1,246	10.53

The following table gives particulars of the attendances throughout the year at the medical sessions.

Clinic	Number of Sessions held	Ante-natal		Post-natal
		New Patients	Re-attendances	
Star Lane ...	123	102	524	12
Whitley ...	189	190	1070	38
Southcote ...	27	39	151	5
Total ...	339	331	1745	55

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

Blood Tests. Our practice of performing venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus Factor and Kahn Tests for General Practitioners has continued.

The following table gives particulars :

Blood tests on—

Clinic patients at Star Lane	...	...	...	13
General practitioner patients at Star Lane	...	...	...	607
Clinic patients at Whitley	...	...	...	68
General practitioner patients at Whitley	...	...	...	93
Clinic patients at Southcote	...	...	...	4
General practitioner patients at Southcote	...	...	...	49

Post-natal Clinics. There are no special sessions for post-natal examinations ; the work is carried out at the end of the ante-natal session under the arrangements outlined in previous reports. During the year 55 women attended municipal clinics for post-natal examinations.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children. This work continues to be carried out in collaboration with the Reading and Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and other agencies ; if necessary, cases can be dealt with by the Department's own staff. The welfare worker of the Association has been good enough to supply the following information :—

“ During 1954 a total of 115 new applications for help were received by the Reading and Bradfield Moral Welfare Association. In addition, a further 48 cases either not completed at the end of 1953 or still in need of assistance were dealt with during the year.

Out of the 115 new applications received in 1954, 61 came from unmarried mothers in the County Borough of Reading, and 33 old cases were still active. Ten applications for help came from girls expecting a second or more child.

A number of girls were helped with gifts of clothing, cots and prams. It is deplorable how many girls, although in receipt of Maternity Grant and Allowances, make so little effort to provide for their expected child.

Twenty-two girls who applied for help in 1954 were admitted to Mother and Baby Homes, Hostels or Shelters, and in 19 of these cases the Local Authority gave financial assistance.

At the end of 1954 there were 9 babies as yet unborn. There were 450 interviews at the Moral Welfare Association office, and 449 home visits were paid ; 806 letters were received and 1,180 were written during the year.”

The position with regard to children at the end of the year was :—

Baby returned with unmarried mother to her own home or lodging	...	...	...	...	...	20	(5)
Baby went with mother to a domestic post	...	...	...	...	...	1	(1)
Baby died	...	...	...	...	...	—	(2)
Baby placed with foster mother	...	...	...	...	...	2	(—)
Baby in home where mother married father of child	...	...	...	...	...	1	(5)
Baby in home where mother not married to father of child	...	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Baby adopted	...	...	...	...	...	7	(12)
Baby living in home where parents are co-habiting	...	...	...	...	...	1	(2)
Baby admitted to voluntary Children's Home	...	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Baby with mother in voluntary Home or Hostel	...	...	...	...	...	4	(—)
Baby in L.A. Hospital, Home or Nursery	...	...	...	...	...	1	(2)
Baby taken by mother to another area	...	...	...	...	...	5	(—)
Mother removed before the birth of child	...	...	...	...	...	4	(1)
Number of miscarriages, stillbirths, abortions	...	...	...	...	...	4	(1)
Children as yet unborn	...	...	...	...	...	9	(—)
Present whereabouts unknown	...	...	...	...	...	2	(—)
						61	(33)

N.B.—*Figures in brackets indicate cases not completed at end of year 1953.*

Infant Welfare Clinics. The main items of report under this heading is the opening of the new Southcote Clinic by Sir Selwyn Selwyn Clark of the Ministry of Health on Wednesday, May 5th. There are now 10 infant welfare clinics which have 67 sessions per month. It is estimated that 84% of children born during the year attended these clinics at least once during 1954.

The following table gives a summary of the attendances at the clinics during the year :—

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total attendances	Average Attendances
Star Lane, London Street, Reading—				
Wednesday ...	52	162	3,723	71
Friday ...	50	60	1,887	37
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading—				
Tuesday a.m. ...	51	35	1,180	23
Tuesday p.m. ...	51	87	3,100	60
Thursday... ...	52	86	2,629	50
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading—				
Monday ...	48	96	2,976	62
Friday ...	50	108	3,559	71
West Memorial Institute, Caversham—				
Tuesday ...	51	79	2,217	43
Thursday... ...	52	97	2,528	48
Tilehurst Village Hall, Tilehurst				
Monday ...	48	90	3,350	69
Whitley Clinic—				
Wednesday ...	52	135	2,973	57
Friday ...	50	83	2,456	49
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road, Reading—				
Tuesday ...	52	93	2,664	51
Shinfield, Tynedale Free Church				
Thursday... ...	52	93	2,381	45
St. Barnabas' Hall, Emmer Green				
Wednesday (alt.) ...	26	31	716	27
Southcote Clinic				
Wednesday ...	34	51	1,602	47
Friday ...	33	41	1,031	31
Totals ...	804	1,427	40,972	50

Welfare Foods. On July 5th we took over the distribution of welfare foods from the Ministry of Food. The take-over operated very smoothly since we were extremely fortunate in securing suitable premises at 22 the Forbury. These are near the centre of the town and also near to this office. We were also able to amalgamate the distribution of these types of welfare foods with the distribution of other types of dried milk, etc., which we had been operating for many years. One supervisor has been engaged and two part-time assistants, in addition to the existing staff. This amalgamation has brought many advantages. During 1954 (six months) we distributed the following from the main depot at 22 the Forbury :—

National Dried Milk Half Cream (20-oz. tin)	...	424
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20-oz. tin)	...	15,170
Orange Juice (bottles)	... ..	28,300
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	... ..	4,518
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	... ..	2,226

In addition, of course, we distributed a large amount of dried milks, etc., from the clinics. The following figures relate to the main items distributed from our clinics during the year and are additional to the preceding :—

National Dried Milk Half Cream (20-oz. tin)		
(6 mths.)	... ..	98
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Half Cream (16-oz. packets)	... ..	1,775
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20-oz. tin)		
(6 mths.)	... ..	9,599
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full Cream (16-oz. packets)	... ..	20,282
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles) (6 mths.)	...	23,374
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	... ..	3,652
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)		
(6 mths)	... ..	4,468
Proprietary Cod Liver Oil Preparations (1-lb. cartons)	... ..	91
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)		
(6 mths.)	... ..	865
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles of Adexolin)	... ..	5,940

Care of Premature Infants. Last year I was able to report the appointment of a special Premature Baby Nurse. She continued her good work throughout 1954 and the general scheme of work, as

outlined in last year's report, has continued to operate successfully. I am very grateful to the staff of the Premature Baby Unit at Battle Hospital for their continued support and co-operation.

It is well recognised that the real problem in premature baby work lies with the very small babies but, curiously enough, very few small babies seem to be born at home as will be seen from perusal of the following table. I think Reading's record in the care of premature babies is one of which we can all be proud as will be seen from the following figures :—36·6% of all confinements took place at home, 23% of all premature births took place in their own homes ; the 28-day survival rate for all weights born at home was 96·8% and for all weights born in hospitals, nursing homes and at home was 91·1%.

(a) Infants transferred from hospital to nurse's care ... 69
 65 discharged into Health Visitor's care alive and well
 3 discharged into Health Visitor's care comparatively
 well despite congenital abnormalities
 1 died of broncho-pneumonia

(b) Infants discharged from nursing homes (including H.M.C.
 homes) to nurse's care 25
 23 discharged into Health Visitor's care alive and well
 2 discharged into Health Visitor's care comparatively
 well despite congenital abnormalities

(c) Infants born and nursed at home 31
 All discharged into Health Visitor's care alive and well

With the help of the Health Visitors, the following figures have been obtained relating to the development of premature babies :—

Infants born in 1953 (commencing February) 82

At six months of age :—

58 were of average length and weight for age
 12 underweight but otherwise apparently normal
 (Average birthweight of these—3-lb. 8-oz. only)
 8 left the district
 4 no records obtained

At one year of age (70 records available as above)

67 normal weight and height and of average intelligence
 1 underweight
 1 very backward, i.e. not sitting up
 1 died of broncho-pneumonia at nine months of age

The following table gives particulars of premature births during 1954 :—

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children. Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follows :—

Pre-School Children. The number of pre-school children treated during the year shows a slight increase over the number who attended in 1953. This increase reflects in the corresponding increase in fillings and the use of silver nitrate. As I have stated previously in my reports, the lack of staff at the present moment prevents any scheme being put into operation for inspection of this group of children.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers. This year there has been an increase in the number of mothers attending for treatment. This, I am sure, is due to the re-opening of the Whitley Dental Clinic where most of the mothers attended. I must repeat, unfortunately, that some of the mothers do not seem to realise the importance of their dental condition and fail to attend for the completion of their treatment.

The following tables gives details of the year's work :—

NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE +

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	23	23	23	14
Children under five ...	247	247	247	236

FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and gum treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided		Radio-graphs
							Full upper or lower	Partial upper or lower	
Expectant and nursing mothers ...	9	49	—	—	73	12	5	2	1
Children under five ...	2	69	352	—	292	109	—	—	—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, 1954

DENTAL TREATMENT

	Pre-school	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Inspection	247	9	14
Treated	247	9	14
Attendances	389	23	52
Extractions	292	28	45
Local Anaesthetics	24	3	7
General Anaesthetics	109	6	6
Fillings	69	20	29
Clean and Polish	2	3	6
Dressings	56	8	11
Silver Nitrate	352	—	—
Full Dentures	—	—	5
Part Dentures	—	—	2
X-rays	—	—	1
Advice	7	1	—
Discharged	236	3	11

Day Nurseries. The decrease in demand for day nursery places, which was reported at the end of last year, continued in the early part of 1954 but, as will be seen from the subjoined table, the demand increased towards the latter part of the year. Our nurseries are accommodated in adapted houses and although structurally there is much to be desired, the care and attention which is given to the children reflects credit on all concerned who operate under such difficult circumstances. We have continued with the policy of providing accommodation only for priority classes but it has been found possible to admit a few children whose mother had to go out to work because the payment for rent of accommodation was taking up too high a proportion of the family income.

Daily Average Attendance for each month of the year, 1954

(Monday to Friday)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Holybrook House ...	26	27	*24	*27	*31	*28	†32	26	36	40	38	35	370
Victoria Square ...	†16	†13	†19	25	23	25	22	22	28	35	34	30	292
Totals ...	42	40	43	52	54	53	54	48	64	75	72	65	662

* Mumps

† Chicken Pox

The following details relate to the position as at December 31st, 1954 :—

Number of Approved Places		Number of Children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance for year	
0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
30	60	31	54	18	37

Women's Advisory Clinic. This continued on the usual lines and there was again an increase in attendances. There were 438 new patients who made a total of 2,451 attendances.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Mr. Bishop's report is as follows :—

Total number of cases dealt with 52

Details of above cases as follows :—

Neglect (new cases) 30

Advice sought 18

Ill-treatment 2

Moral danger 2

Children concerned in above cases 115

Total number of visits made in Reading Borough inclusive of supervision visits and miscellaneous visits ... 700

Two cases were prosecuted by the Society in Reading Borough in 1954.

SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Arrangements for this service continued on the lines previously described, i.e. there are five municipal midwives (including one whole-time relief midwife) and six Q.V.I. midwives. During the year Miss Parsons retired on the grounds of ill-health after giving more than seventeen years' service to the Corporation. Altogether she had worked in Reading for thirty-five years. We were very sorry to learn that she had to retire and wish her well in her retirement.

Pupils from Battle Hospital continued to take the second part of Part II of the C.M.B. examination with the Queen Victoria Institute midwives.

The demand for institutional accommodation, of one type or another, continued throughout the year. This entailed quite a lot of work in "vetting" applications for admission on social grounds. Altogether 670 cases were vetted, of whom 520 were recommended for admission either to hospital or to an H.M.C. Maternity Home. The following table shows the trend of confinements during recent years :—

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1938	1,552	1,000	64·4
1939	1,564	897	57·7
1940	1,725	931	54·0
1941	1,913	931	49·0
1942	1,833	858	46·8
1943	1,925	907	47·0
1944	2,139	925	43·2
1945	2,066	806	39·0
1946	2,226	791	35·5
1947	2,250	765	34·0
1948	2,100	645	30·7
1949	1,855	603	32·5
1950	1,809	559	30·9
1951	1,805	635	35·1
1952	1,767	614	34·7
1953	1,700	601	35·3
1954	1,678	615	36·6

Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)

Births

Male	1,301	Legitimate	2,409	Live	2,446 (27 pairs)
Female	1,210	Illegitimate	102	Still	65

Weights

2-lb. 3-oz. or under	...	...	...	...	...	18
2-lb. 4-oz.-3-lb. 4-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	31
3-lb. 5-oz.-4-lb. 6-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	76
4-lb. 7-oz.-4-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	44
5-lb. 0-oz.-5-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	97
5-lb. 8-oz.-5-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	132
6-lb. 0-oz.-6-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	252
6-lb. 8-oz.-6-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	347
7-lb. 0-oz.-7-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	...	475
7-lb. 8-oz. or over	...	...	...	...	...	1,039

Place of Birth

Domiciliary	...	...	...	...	...	618
Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	966
Private Nursing Home	...	...	...	...	...	201
H.M.C. Maternity Homes	...	...	...	...	...	540
Contractual	...	...	...	...	...	186

Dellwood

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	...	447
Number of patients delivered by doctors	...	...	12
Number of infants wholly breast-fed	...	...	459
Maternal deaths	...	...	Nil

Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough, based on notifications

Births

Male	860	Legitimate	1,620	Live	1,646
Female	818	Illegitimate	58	Still	32

Weights

2-lb. 3-oz. or under	...	...	...	...	4
2-lb. 4-oz.-3-lb. 4-oz.	...	...	...	...	14
3-lb. 5-oz.-4-lb. 6-oz.	...	...	...	...	47
4-lb. 7-oz.-4-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	27
5-lb. 0-oz.-5-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	63
5-lb. 8-oz.-5-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	91
6-lb. 0-oz.-6-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	173
6-lb. 8-oz.-6-lb. 15-oz.	...	...	...	...	246
7-lb. 0-oz.-7-lb. 7-oz.	...	...	...	...	334
7-lb. 8-oz. or over	...	...	...	...	679

Place of Birth

Born in Borough	...	...	...	...	...	1,586
Born out of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	92

Domiciliary

Inside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	615
Outside Borough	...	...	...	...	...	—

Hospital

Battle (booked)	...	...	...	...	...	362
Battle (emergency)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other	...	...	...	...	...	11

Private Nursing Homes

The Hill	...	...	...	...	...	73
St. Monan's	...	...	...	...	...	16

H.M.C. Maternity Homes

Dellwood	...	...	...	...	...	390
Wallingford	...	...	...	...	...	4
Townlands	...	...	...	...	...	25
Wokingham	...	...	...	...	...	52
Sandleford	...	...	...	...	...	—

Contractual (arrangements with nursing homes)

Chiltern	...	...	...	...	...	124
Other	...	...	...	...	...	—

Attended during labour by doctor	...	...	...	...	464
Attended during labour by midwife only	...	...	...	...	1,214
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor	...	...	...	...	119
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only	...	...	...	...	493

PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
24	—	2	2
25	—	—	—
26	1	—	1
27	—	—	—
28	1	8	9
29	—	4	4
30	4	7	11
31	3	2	5
32	14	16	30
33	4	2	6
34	22	9	31
35	7	9	16
36	30	35	65
37	23	27	50
38	103	52	155
39	71	34	105
40	1,362	602	1,964
41	9	12	21
42	21	12	33
43	3	—	3
44	—	—	—
	1,678	833	2,511

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1954

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	3	2	—	1	6	3	—	3	—	12
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other disease of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Congenital Malformations	6	—	—	—	6	—	1	1	—	8
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
All other Accidents	8	4	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	12
Totals ...	28	7	—	1	36	7	1	4	1	49

It is with regret that I have to record that these figures include 13 babies who died as the result of the disastrous fire at Dellwood Maternity Home

Stillbirths. Twenty-nine stillbirths were reported during the year. The stillbirth rate for recent years has been as follows :—

1946	...	73
1947	...	54
1948	...	52
1949	...	41
1950	...	41
1951	...	37
1952	...	47
1953	...	39
1954	...	32

An analysis of 29 stillbirths revealed the following :—

13 occurred at Battle Hospital and were booked there or referred by Medical Practitioners

1 occurred at Battle Hospital which had been transferred in labour

5 occurred in Hospital Management Committee Nursing Homes

10 were domiciliary

Causes were :—

7 malformed

9 malpresentations

11 prematurity associated with toxæmia including one twin delivery

2 undetermined

Maternal Deaths. There was one maternal death during the year. The following give brief particulars :—

Cause of Death

1 (a) Toxæmia due to septic instrumental abortion by person(s) unknown in circumstances unknown.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Enquiries in relation to 28 notifications in respect of Reading cases revealed the following :—

17 were notified from Battle Hospital

4 occurred in Hospital Management Committee Nursing Homes

7 were domiciliary

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum reported during the year.

The Superintendent Health Visitor acts as the non-medical supervisor of midwives. The number of midwives practising in the area at the end of the year is given in the following table :—

		Number of Midwives practising in the area of the Local Super- vising Authority at the end of the year		
		Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Total
(a)	Midwives employed by the Authority	5	—	5
(b)	Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	6	—	6
(ii)	Otherwise (including Hospi- tals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act :—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	24	24
(ii)	Otherwise	—	—	—
(d)	Midwives in Private Practice (in- cluding Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	1	12	13
	Total ...	12	36	48

Number of Deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year

	Domiciliary Cases				Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked			
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (4)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (5)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority ...	—	1	69	188	258	—
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :—						
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	3	50	301	354	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	1,504
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ...	—	—	—	—	—	308
Totals ...	—	4	119	489	612	1,812

Domiciliary Midwives

(1)	Number of <i>Domiciliary</i> Midwives prac- tising in the area at end of year who were qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Mid- wives Board (2)	Number of sets of apparatus for the adminis- tration of gas and air in use at end of year (3)	Number of cases in which gas and air was admini- stered by midwives in <i>domiciliary</i> practice during the year		Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in <i>domiciliary</i> practice during the year	
			When doctor was present at time of delivery of child (4)	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child (5)	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child (6)	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child (7)
(a) Domiciliary Midwives employed directly by Local Health Authority	5	6	47	162	32	90
(b) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Sec- tion 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority	6	7	36	229	26	132
(c) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Sec- tion 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or employed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	13	83	391	58	222

The following table gives a comparison of the work carried out by the Queen Victoria Institute Midwives and the Municipal Midwives. No account has been taken of the pupil midwives who work with the former :—

QUEEN VICTORIA INSTITUTE				MUNICIPAL		
Year	No. of Midwives	No. of Confinements	Average per Midwife	No. of Midwives	No. of Confinements	Average per Midwife
1949	6	328	55	5	275	55
1950	6	285	47	4.8	274	57
1951	6	343	57	4	302	75
1952	6	339	56	4.2	320	76
1953	6	287	48	5	314	63
1954	6	354	59	4.6	258	64

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

During the year two nurses, who had been away on an assisted training scheme, commenced duties as fully qualified health visitors. It has also been possible to take further steps in the amalgamation of the school nursing service with the general health visiting services of the Borough. This is naturally a slow process, conditioned partly by shortage of staff and partly by the age of retirement of existing school nurses. At the end of the year the position was briefly as follows :—

Whole time School Nurses	...	...	...	...	5
Nurses doing H.V. and S.N. duties	...	...	...	...	6
Nurses doing whole time health visiting	...	...	...	...	2
Part-time nurses doing health visiting	...	...	...	...	1
Part-time nurses doing clinic duty	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis health visitors	...	...	...	...	2
Vacancies	...	...	...	...	4

On November 15th, 1954, Miss White retired after thirty-six years' service as a health visitor in this Borough. She left with the best wishes of all her colleagues for a happy retirement.

The close association between the health visitors and the hospital almoners and medical staff continued throughout the year and there was undoubtedly an extension of the work of health visitors. They are now asked to pay follow-up visits, to provide

special reports for the hospital, and to help in the selection of chronic sick patients for admission to hospital. After consultation with the Local Medical Committee, I sent a letter to each general practitioner in the town giving him a list of the nurses attached to various parts of the town, various infant welfare clinics, and various schools, and made suggestions whereby co-operation between general practitioners and health visitors could be closer. I am glad to say that this letter has been well received and as the number of health visitors increases, so we should see a closer integration of their working with general practitioners. I am quite sure that the will to co-operate is now making itself manifest on both sides. The system whereby we get copies of hospital discharge notes of children has greatly helped health visitors in their daily work—in fact, it has made us realise how much we were missing by not receiving this information beforehand.

The following table is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

First visits to children under 1 year of age	...	...	1,693
Total visits to children under 1 year of age	...	...	9,089
Total visits to children aged 1-2 years	...	...	5,027
Total visits to children aged 2-5 years	...	...	9,377
First visits to expectant mothers	...	...	395
Total visits to expectant mothers	...	...	756
Other visits	...	...	1,345
<hr/>			
Total visits	...	...	27,682
<hr/>			

In addition to the above, the following special visits were paid by the Superintendent Health Visitor :—

Domiciliary Midwifery

- 3 district nursings with midwives
- 20 inspections of registers, bags and equipment
- 11 visits for other various reasons

Visits to Institutions

- 25 to Hospital Management Committee hospitals and nursing homes to investigate reasons for puerperal pyrexia, stillbirths, and infant deaths
- 25 district investigations (post-natal, etc.) for above cases
- 8 Inspections of Private Nursing Homes
- 14 Special visits *re* assessment for maternity beds

Health Visiting

108	Primary visits (Southcote and Caversham districts)
71	0-1 year visits
83	1 year and under 2 years visits
56	2 years and under 5 years visits
14	Bed Bureau. Visits for chronic sick assessments
7	Hospital after-care visits
73	Miscellaneous visits
12	Infant welfare clinic sessions

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

The Queen Victoria Institute continue to act as the agent for the Council in respect of home nursing as well as part of the Domiciliary Midwifery Service. During the year discussions continued about the purchase of the four existing nurses' homes which belong to the Queen Victoria Institute but so far no negotiations have been concluded. Miss Hinksman returned to duty on January 1st, 1954, and I am pleased to report that she has continued in good health since then. The position in regard to staff fluctuated a good deal but on the whole was not unsatisfactory. The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows :—

Superintendent (on sick leave)	...	...	...	...	1
Assistant Superintendents	...	...	...	...	2
Q.V.I. district nurses	...	...	...	...	11
Candidates	...	...	...	...	5
Male nurses	...	...	...	...	2
Non Q.V.I. nurses—					
Full-time	...	...	...	...	4
Part-time	...	...	...	...	4

The total number of visits paid showed a still further increase. There is no doubt that the work of the district nursing service helps to reduce the number of admissions to hospital. A large proportion of the cases attended are elderly people.

About 10% of all visits are for the purpose of giving injections—insulin and antibiotic drugs.

The following table gives a statistical summary of the work done by nurses during the year :—

Number of cases on books on first day of the year	...	375
Number of new cases nursed during the year	...	2,920

Referred by—

Patient's family doctor	...	...	...	...	...	2,518
Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	179
Patient's application	...	...	...	...	...	188

Classification of new cases—

Medical	...	...	...	...	...	2,211
Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	319
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	67
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	246
Maternal complications	...	...	...	...	...	85
Others	...	...	...	...	...	367

Total ... 3,295

Total number of visits paid to the above cases—

Medical	...	...	...	...	...	61,398
Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	9,793
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	779
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	7,545
Maternal complications	...	...	...	...	...	810
Others	...	...	...	...	...	764

Total ... 81,089

Classification of discharges—

Convalescent	...	...	...	...	...	859
Transferred to hospital	...	...	...	...	...	336
Died	...	...	...	...	...	301
Relieved	...	...	...	...	...	1,398

Number of cases on the books on the last day of the year 400

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1949	2,741	92,000
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (excluding B.C.G.)

Arrangements for immunisation against diphtheria and against whooping cough continued to be carried out on the lines described in the 1952 and 1953 reports. Suspended whooping cough vaccine was used instead of alum precipitated vaccine although A.P.T. continued to be used for diphtheria immunisation when carried out alone.

The following table gives the position at December 31st, 1954. The figures include children who were given combined whooping cough and diphtheria immunisation :—

Immunisation in relation to Child Population :—

Number of Children at December 31st, 1954, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e. at any time since January 1st, 1940)

Age at 31/12/54 i.e. born in the year ...	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether prim- ary or booster)					
A 1950-1954 ...	216	4,433	2,706	458	7,813
B 1949 or earlier ...	—	—	4,898	5,279	10,177
C Estimated mid-year child population ...	1,670	6,530	17,700		25,900
Immunity Index 100 A/C	12.9	67.9	75.4		69.5

Booster Doses—For Diphtheria alone	...	...	...	...	...	358
For Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	603

The number of children who completed the course of inoculation with Pertussis Vaccines (including S.B.M. and vaccines combined with diphtheria prophylactic) during the year 1954 was as follows :—

Age at Date of Final Injection			
Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
843	503	53	1,399

Booster Doses—Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	603
Whooping Cough (S.B.M.)	...	...	...	...	2

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946—SECTION 26
IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st, 1954

Clinic	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Diphtheria	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against Whooping Cough	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Diphtheria	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against Whooping Cough	Total
Grovelands	17	110	2	67	103	—	299
Whitley	14	187	2	37	106	—	346
Tilehurst	1	76	—	2	11	—	90
Caversham	9	97	4	9	15	—	134
School, Queen's Road ...	7	188	2	59	121	—	377
Southcote	4	114	1	18	26	—	163
The Hill Primary School...	7	—	—	38	8	—	53
Geo. Field Infants School	—	—	—	12	26	—	38
Ridgeway Primary School	—	—	—	19	16	—	35
Emmer Green Primary School	—	—	—	18	25	—	43
Caversham Primary School	—	—	—	22	2	—	24
St. Anne's R.C. School ...	—	—	—	14	9	—	23
George Palmer Infants' School	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Southcote Primary School	—	—	—	4	10	—	14
Carried out by Private Practitioners	42	598	18	39	119	2	818
Totals	101	1,370	29	358	603	2	2,463

Vaccination. The following table gives the position as at December 31st, 1954. The number of live births during 1954 was 1,646 ; this gives an acceptance rate of 40%—a slight increase on 1953.

Age at 31/12/54 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1954	1 year 1953	2-4 1950-52	5-14 1940-49	15 or over before 1940	Total
Number Vaccinated	663	3	38	18	96	818
Number Re-vaccinated	16	2	6	6	40	70

National Health Service Act, 1946—Section 26
Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1954

Clinic	0-6 months	7-12 months	Over 12 months	Totals
Grovelands ...	49	12	11	72 (3)*
Whitley ...	43	5	9	57 (4)*
Tilehurst ...	27	7	1	35 (2)*
Caversham ...	40	8	5	53 (3)*
School, Queen's Road ...	60	12	12	84 (9)*
Southcote ...	27	7	9	43 (2)*
Carried out by Private Prac- titioners ...	321	61	162	544 (47)*
Totals ...	567	112	209	888 (70)*

* Denotes re-vaccination

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

A. Ambulances. The day-to-day supervision of the Ambulance service continued under the supervision of the Transport Manager. During the year we took delivery of one new ambulance in replacement of the one which was becoming unserviceable. The fleet at the end of the year was eight large ambulances and two small ambulances.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough cases :—

<i>Year</i>			<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949	...	...	8,797	10,098	88,884
1950	...	...	10,702	12,165	106,256
1951	...	...	12,176	14,097	119,839
1952	...	...	15,649	18,096	139,596
1953	...	...	19,357	23,482	155,528
1954	...	...	21,361	24,453	159,361

AMBULANCE SERVICE, 1954—ALL AREAS

			<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Emergency (i.e. 999 calls)	...		1,388	1,361	7,214
Non-urgent	...	...	18,595	21,733	139,467
Bed Bureau	...	...	1,321	1,356	11,706
Midwifery Flying Squad	...		57	3	974
Departmental Ambulances	...		13,193	14,216	101,011
Departmental Light Ambulances			6,167	7,315	44,406
St. John Ambulance	...	...	2,001	2,922	13,944
British Red Cross Society	...		Nil	Nil	Nil

BOROUGH CASES ONLY

			<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Emergency (i.e. 999 calls)	...	...	1,174	4,913
Non-urgent	...	...	16,728	115,405
Bed Bureau	...	...	1,194	9,625
*Midwifery Flying Squad	...	...	57	974
Departmental Ambulances	...	...	17,310	119,132
St. John Ambulance	...	...	1,843	11,785
British Red Cross Society	...	...	Nil	Nil

* Includes light ambulances

In addition, 11 patients were conveyed by railway ambulance for a total of 1,421 miles.

Our thanks are due to the Transport Manager for the way this service has been administered, especially in view of the increasing difficulties of man-power during the year.

B. Hospital Car Service. There was no material change in the arrangements for this Service. The following table gives a summary of the work carried out since 1949 :—

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

<i>Year</i>		<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Patients</i>
1949	...	88,332	6,213
1950	...	78,062	7,408
1951	...	86,224	9,949
1952	...	108,808	11,712
1953	...	84,992	8,768
1954	...	90,249	9,374

C. General Considerations. The increase in the use of Section 27 transport continues as will be seen from the preceding figures. There have been many discussions about ways of economising but the basic difficulty remains that the Local Authority has no control over the people who make the demands on the the Service. At the same time, I would remind the Committee that we have a duty to supply adequate ambulance cover for a very important area for the whole twenty-four hours of the day ranging from minor accidents to major accidents such as railway disasters.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS AND AFTER-CARE

A. Tuberculosis. (See also Section *re* Infectious Disease). The arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients worked well during the year. The Council's Tuberculosis Welfare Officer continued to act as Hon. Secretary of the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association. We have now established a very happy integration of the statutory and non-statutory services and I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Care Association for the time and thought they give to this work ; also a very special word of thanks to the Seals Sale Committee which organises the successful Seals Sale every year, the proceeds of which form the bulk of the money which is expended by the Care Association.

(a) *Report of Tuberculosis Welfare Officer.* The majority of tuberculosis patients are still treated in their homes and the services provided by the Public Health Department, such as free milk, nursing necessities and the services of the health visitors and almoner, are still very much needed. The Welfare Officer continues to co-operate with all agencies, both statutory and voluntary, which exist to help patients ; these include the National Assistance Board, the Disablement Re-settlement Officer, the Domestic Help Service, the Children's Officer, the Housing Department, the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, the Sanitary Inspectors, the British Red Cross, the W.V.S., the Reading Council of Social Service, and many others.

The following is a table of the main types of help given through the Public Health Department :—

Convalescence	...	...	...	...	20
Free milk	...	...	...	...	87
Meals on wheels	...	...	...	...	3
Boarding out of contacts			...	...	3

Convalescence. It will be seen that the number of convalescences has increased. This is partly due to a new scheme whereby the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association engaged rooms at Poole for five months during the summer and sent a continuous stream of patients and their wives for periods of two weeks each. The Public Health Department usually paid for the patient and the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association paid for the wife. Sixteen people had holidays through this scheme. In addition the Public Health Department paid for seven adults and three children at convalescent homes. In one case a man, his wife and two children were sent away together. The Public Health Department paid for the wife, who was our patient, the Reading Dispensary Trust paid for her husband, who was also unwell, and the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association covered the cost of the children.

Rehabilitation is an important part of the Welfare Officer's job and she is in constant touch with the D.R.O.'s and with employers. The vast majority of patients are absorbed back into industry. During 1954, new jobs were found for 66 patients ; these include six training courses, and in addition many patients return to their old jobs.

Under the Christmas Parcels Scheme, 87 parcels were distributed, one-third of the cost being met by the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association.

(b) *Reading Tuberculosis Care Association.* The Hon. Secretary reports as follows :—

“ The Reading Tuberculosis Care Association has continued to act as the agent for the Local Authority and many demands are made upon it. The Holiday Scheme has already been mentioned. Under the Garden Scheme, a man was engaged full-time for a period of ten days, and ten gardens were dug over. Messrs. Suttons were again kind enough to supply seeds for the patients. The Fuel Scheme provided 67 patients with a gift of 6 cwt. of coal each. A library is in the process of formation for the use of those on home treatment.

The following is a summary of other types of help given during the year :—

Holidays	...	...	...	...	8
Provision of clothing	...	...	...	...	18
Radios (repairs, batteries and licences)					10
Home Help	...	...	...	...	2
Bedding	...	...	...	...	3
Red Cross Library Subscriptions				...	3
Pocket money for in-patients	...			...	2
Milk	...	...	...	...	1
Other	...	...	...	...	18

(c) *Christmas Seals Sale.* For the fifth successive year the Christmas Seals Sale has been a great success. The general organisation was on the lines of previous years and the amount collected for Christmas, 1954, was £440.

(d) *Occupational Therapy.* Miss L. D. Saunders, Occupational Therapist, has continued her very valuable work in this connection. Nominally, she is an employee of the Reading and District Hospital Management Committee but half her salary is paid by the Reading Corporation. Miss Saunder's report is as follows :—

Eighty-one patients, 53 of whom were new, were visited, most of them while both in hospital and also in their own homes, the latter accounting for approximately 300 visits.

Five hundred and fifty separate issues of materials were made, resulting in about 1,400 articles being successfully completed, most of which were purchased by the patients for their own use.

Those not purchased by patients, i.e. 401, were sent to ' Helping Hand ' shops for disposal.

Four hundred and twenty were sold in 1954 by these ' Helping Hand ' shops ; these include some sent in the previous year.

Of the 1,577 articles sent to them over the whole period of roughly three years, about 1,200 have been sold.

(e) *B.C.G. Vaccination.* During the year 236 contacts were vaccinated with B.C.G. Steps were also taken to prepare for the vaccination of school leavers, commencing with a pilot experiment in the Whitley area. During the year 51 school leavers were vaccinated."

B. Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus. Patients who are attended by the Queen's nurses are supplied free with nursing requisites on loan. In addition, 15 applications from other sources were accepted. I feel that the time is now coming when we should inaugurate a central store for nursing equipment and I hope that this will be effected before the end of 1955.

C. Holiday Convalescence. During the year 28 adults, 2 mother and child, and 5 children were sent away for periods of convalescence under the Council's scheme. Two adults were assisted with travelling expenses only ; repayment was made in accordance with an income scale.

D. Health Education. Health Education programmes during 1954 continued along the same lines as in previous years. The annual one-day conference, presented by the Central Council for Health Education for health visitors and midwives, was held in October at the Whitley Clinic and 9 members of the Berkshire County Council personnel also attended. The subject for discussion was "The Future of the Child Welfare Centre." At the Spring meeting arranged by the School Health Service staff for the Reading School Teachers, a discussion on "The Scope of the Teaching of Hygiene in Schools" was introduced by Dr. Norman Parfitt, a Divisional Medical Officer of the Berkshire County Council and former Deputy Medical Advisor to the Central Council for Health Education. The Autumn meeting was a lecture-demonstration on "Asthma in Childhood" and the value of breathing exercises, and was given by Dr. J. J. Kempton, Paediatrician. The exercises were demonstrated by a class of asthmatic children under the supervision of one of the School Nursing Staff. An additional meeting was arranged in October for teachers and others who work in connection with children for the showing of the much discussed film "A Two-year Old Goes to Hospital," made by the Tavistock Clinic.

Throughout the year a number of talks were given by the School Medical Officers to various Parent-Teacher Associations, Societies and Clubs and a lecture on the School Health Service was given to the graduates of the Department of Education, Reading University.

In all fields of propaganda practical demonstrations, film strips and other visual aids are being used extensively and it is hoped to utilise these methods in our future programmes. There is no way of assessing, with any degree of accuracy, the value of these Health Education Schemes, but it is undoubtedly a function of a progressive Public Health Department to devise a policy designed to interest the public in hygiene and the care of their health. It is hoped to extend the scope of our activities during the coming year and more ambitious programmes are being planned. We are encouraged in our efforts by the increasingly large audiences who attend our meetings.

E. Problem Families. (This Section should be read in conjunction with the comments on the provision of accommodation for families which are temporarily homeless).

In last year's report I made reference to the appointment of a social worker with special experience in family case work. She has had a busy year during 1954 and I am quite satisfied that the

appointment has more than justified itself. There is a continuous shortage of health visitors and it is almost impossible for a health visitor, with her increasing commitments, to give the concentrated and regular attention which is necessary for a so-called "problem family." In addition, matters of urgency often arise when families are threatened with eviction and it would be quite impossible for our already over-worked health visitors to cope adequately with the situation which then arises. The issue of Circular 27/54 was therefore of considerable interest to us in Reading since it did sanction the employment of a special worker to deal with these problems and thereby has allowed us to claim grants for the service of the Family Case Worker. The Circular confirms the attitude we have taken in trying to prevent the break-up of families, and in co-operation with the Family Aid Unit, we feel that we have been able to prevent such break-up in a number of cases but I would issue one word of caution about the present attitude in this matter. I sometimes have an uncomfortable belief that the pendulum has swung too far in one direction and that there is a danger of attempting to keep together a family in which there is no nucleus and no cohesion and therefore nothing upon which one can build at all. Nor am I entirely satisfied that the effects of admission to nurseries or children's homes, as they are run at present, is such a bad thing as is suggested in some quarters. The report of the Family Case Worker has been included in some detail because of the interest which it has produced and it is therefore only necessary for me to comment briefly on two items, viz. the continuation of the decrease in numbers of people admitted to Part III (temporary) accommodation and the new work in connection with Corporation housing tenants who are in arrears with their rent. Under this latter procedure, the Health Department is notified of all cases where the rent is two weeks in arrear. It is felt that in some of these cases non-payment of rent may be a symptom of deeper trouble which may be amenable to early treatment and thereby it may be possible to avoid the need for eviction. It is too early to comment on the value of this new practice ; it will be seen that our first impressions are that there is no good reason for non-payment in the majority of cases. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation of the continued good work and enthusiasm of the Reading Family Aid Group.

Miss Ross' report is as follows :—

"The Family Case Worker is concerned with families with children who are homeless, or likely to become so, and with problem families. The work with homeless families has swung in the past year from largely remedial to preventive casework. The hut for mothers and children at Woodlands was not in use for this class of person from February to December, 1954. Four mothers with their children were actively assisted while at Woodlands during the year and only one of these remained longer than two weeks. Those given shelter were expected, as in the latter part of 1953, to leave the premises

after breakfast unless the weather was bad and to report to the Family Case Worker by late afternoon if they found no other accommodation during the day. Proceedings were instituted by the N.S.P.C.C. against one mother, and her child was removed to the care of the Children's Department as in need of 'care and protection.' All the mothers given shelter appeared to be emotionally unstable, two had already left their husbands and one family was in the process of break-down.

Four families refused Part III accommodation when offered. One of these families had six children and the parents made temporary arrangements with friends and left the area three weeks later. Another made unsatisfactory arrangements for themselves and their two children until enquiries revealed that they were capable of making better plans and had hoped to obtain a Council house more speedily by living under unsatisfactory conditions.

Ten families who received eviction orders were actively advised and assisted to find other accommodation. The Housing Department assisted a mother separated from her husband with eight children who was faced with eviction as her husband had failed to keep up mortgage payments on their house. None of these families entered Part III accommodation.

These homeless families showed the need for some preventive work before accommodation was lost through the incapability of the parents. Late in the year a field for preventive family welfare work was opened up by the co-operation of the Housing Department and the Borough Treasurer's Department. Information is now exchanged on Council tenants who are frequently in arrears with their rent. Certain of these are visited by the Family Case Worker in co-operation with the Housing Welfare Officer and two have been referred to the Reading Family Aid Group for regular visiting. It is very clear from the short experience in visiting poor rent payers that only a small proportion show other symptoms of social distress. Some husbands are ignorant of the state of the household budget which they leave entirely to their wives. At present this new field of work cannot be explored in depth but it may be regarded as a safety valve through which other acute family trouble may in some cases be discovered. Of the 21 families visited by the Reading Family Aid Group, 11 are often in arrear with their rent and disciplinary action on two of these families has been agreed with the Housing Department, Children's Department, Treasurers and others interested after discussion on case conference lines.

The success of work with homeless families and those likely to become so largely depend on close co-operation with other officials and organisations concerned and it is desired to acknowledge the friendly assistance extended to the Family Case Worker by all departments.

The Reading Family Aid Group. The Group has been working for three years and is visiting 21 families containing 110 children, as compared with 15 families with 72 children at the time of last reporting. There are three volunteer caseworkers who are trained social workers and who undertake to befriend a number of families.

One member acts as storekeeper who looks after gifts of clothing before distribution to the families. The Chairman of the Group recently gave an account of its work to the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health. The Family Case Worker continues to act as Secretary to the Group.

The Reading Family Aid Group has now been working with some families for three years and careful consideration is given at its monthly meetings to any degree of progress that can be observed. It is felt that the majority of families need long-term support—at any rate until the older children are out at work, and there comes an end of child-bearing. The Group has endeavoured to withdraw its visits from one family where it was felt that there was an all-round improvement in home conditions and family relationships, but the visitor has been called in again by the family during a number of fresh crises.

The three years' work of the Group does not make it easier to arrive at a closer analysis of the term 'Problem Families.' The closer the contact with a family the more complex do the contributory factors become. While working on Dr. Stallybrass's definition of problem families as those who 'present an abnormal amount of sub-normal behaviour over prolonged periods with a marked tendency to backsliding,' the families known to the Group are all recognisable by this description, but we are still left with the problem of causation. The Family Service Units, which have longer experience in special work with this class of family, have tended to link as the two main casual factors, a combination of mental deficiency and instability of character. In the limited experience of the Group some degree of success can be achieved with families where the parents are obviously of low intelligence, by the simple fact of a long period of faithful and unwavering support and encouragement. There is marked instability of character in some parents known to the Group, though this often appears to be coupled with average intelligence. One would expect, judging from Dr. John's Bowth's publication 'Maternal Care and Mental Health,' to find that a majority of parents' problems had been precipitated by separation from their own parents in early childhood but at present this appears in the history of only two or three parents. The Group continues to function on the assumption that some degree of stability may ultimately be achieved by prolonged

friendship and encouragement. The following figures may be of interest :—

- 42% families showed marked marital disharmony
- 38% parents suffer from poor health
- 38% children are at E.S.N. school
- 19% families are intermittently verminous
- 14% families have no breadwinner (dead or deserted)

Since Christmas, the Group has co-operated with the Home Making Organiser at the Community Centre in encouraging mothers to a weekly ' Mothers' Club ' where they have undertaken a number of activities including making biscuits, mittens, haircutting and sewing. Numbers fluctuate considerably, but it is evident that a club for a group of less capable mothers can contribute something to their social confidence which has often been undermined by criticism and a feeling of isolation.

There is growing interest in the work of the Group, shown by the number of invitations extended to members to address voluntary societies in the area on the work undertaken with problem families. Many of these societies have assisted in a practical way by gifts of money, clothing, bedding and furniture."

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP

This Service has probably grown more than any other since the appointed day ; indeed it is difficult to realise how we carried on without it before 1948. About two-thirds of the beneficiaries are old people. Although it has not been possible to give everyone the amount of service which he or she would like or, indeed, which we would like to give to them, I am quite sure that the regular visits of Home Helps have proved a great benefit. The Service has operated at full stretch during the whole year, not only in helping to keep people out of hospital or Part III accommodation but also enabling earlier discharge from hospital. I am pleased to report that there has been the closest and friendliest co-operation with the Hospital Almoners, general practitioners, officers of the National Assistance Board, voluntary associations, and a host of other people. At a meeting which was convened with general practitioners to discuss certain matters in connection with the welfare of old people, a strong plea was made for a still further extension of this Service to enable old people to stay at home. I am pleased to be able to report that the Council has again increased its budget for the financial year 1955/6 to enable this to be done. At the same time it might be opportune to sound a word of warning about the extent to which the Service can be developed. We have very full employment in Reading, both for male and female labour ; for this reason all

our Domestic Helps are part-time, i.e. they are not guaranteed a regular full working week although on many occasions they do work for more than the usual 44 hours per week. We have also to have regard to the quality of the recruit.

Therefore I feel that we may be approaching the stage when we cannot recruit more Domestic Helps. Extension of the Service will also mean an increase in the clerical and supervisory staff. Although this Service is a new Service, it is very pleasing to be able to record that fact that it does seem to be developing a strong *esprit de corps* and I would like to pay tribute to the sincerity of the Domestic Helps ; on many occasions they do that little bit of extra work or put in that little extra time which makes all the difference to the comfort of the beneficiaries.

(1) Number of domestic helps employed at the end of the year :						
Whole time	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part-time	...	...	...	...	...	122
(2) Number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year :—						
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	262
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	...	38
Chronic sick (including aged and infirm)	...	...	...	...	...	710
Others	...	...	...	...	...	219
						<hr/> 1,229 <hr/>
Visited but no help sent	...	...	...	...	...	144
(3) Number of Domestic Help Organisers						
	...	...	...	...	...	2

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of Householders helped at first day of period—												
(a) Part-time	430	434	454	481	469	485	470	476	484	497	494	501
(b) Full-time	3	4	4	2	6	6	2	1	2	3	8	4
Number of Householders helped at last day of period :—												
(a) Part-time	440	458	466	469	478	470	481	476	486	512	507	509
(b) Full-time	1	3	2	7	4	2	3	2	3	4	2	4
Source of New Applications :—												
(a) Direct application by Doctor	23	22	12	12	13	10	11	5	6	10	11	10
(b) " " Hospital	3	5	10	5	9	8	7	3	8	7	7	5
(c) " " Midwife	21	21	18	13	11	12	28	19	22	28	22	12
(d) " " Householder	23	15	15	11	14	8	13	15	11	19	10	14
(e) " " Welfare Worker	4	9	5	5	12	6	6	11	6	13	8	9
Classification of reasons for help being sought :—												
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	29	26	19	22	31	19	19	23	19	29	28	21
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	20	23	17	10	14	11	14	12	16	16	6	14
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	24	23	24	14	14	14	32	18	18	32	23	15
(d) Miscellaneous	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary												
(a) Part-time	62	52	49	41	56	37	45	44	37	56	44	45
(b) Full-time	7	5	4	11	8	7	5	3	4	5	4	7
Classification of reasons why Householders had received help for over one month at the end of period :—												
(a) Old age and infirmity and chronic sickness	332	303	357	375	379	389	390	392	387	393	416	417
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	57	66	65	66	61	50	58	59	56	63	61	58
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	6	5	6	8	7	7	8	7	4	2	5	1
(d) Miscellaneous	—	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps during period												
(a) Part-time	10524	9419½	10048½	10058½	12090½	9907	9417	9948½	8754	12123½	10179½	9847½
(b) Full-time	118	118	122	123	120	120	120	119	117	122	121	122
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period												
(a) Part-time	76	95	85	58	70	59	65	61	45	79	65	87
(b) Full-time	194	223	230	147	238	116	183	201	204	170	274	241

SECTION 51—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. Mental Illness.

(a) ADMINISTRATION. The general arrangements continued as outlined in the 1952 Report.

(b) REPORT BY DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER. Mr. C. E. House has submitted the following particulars about his work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

During the year the following have been received into various mental hospitals from Reading :—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890.</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order	20	31	51
Section 20—Removed under Duly Authorised Officer's Order—3 days	11	9	20
Section 21—Removed under Justice's Order—14 days	5	2	7
Section 21 <i>a</i> —Persons removed under Section 20, whose Orders were extended for a further 14 days by a Certificate of Hospital Medical Officer ...	11	6	17
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order at expiration of Section 20 and Section 21 <i>a</i> Orders ...	2	2	4
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order at expiration of Section 21 Order	1	2	3
Persons examined by Justice but no Order made	5	3	8

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Section 1—Voluntary Patients ...	37	63	100
Section 5—Temporary Patients ...	1	3	4

The following Reading patients have been regraded during their in-patient stay at Mental Hospitals :—

<i>From Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 20 to Voluntary Class ...	—	2	2
Section 21 to Voluntary Class ...	3	—	3
Section 21 <i>a</i> to Voluntary Class ...	3	4	7

From Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Temporary			
Section 5 to Voluntary Class ...	—	2	2

The following Reading patients have left mental hospitals :—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Left hospital on trial period prior to discharge for a period of one month (4 or 5 weeks)	3	5	8
In the case of one male the period had been extended for a total period of 13 weeks			
Discharged recovered at expiration of trial period	2	4	6
Discharged recovered without trial period	1	2	3
Discharged relieved	5	10	15
Discharged not improved	—	2	2
Discharged on expiration of Order under Section 20	1	—	1
Discharged on expiration of Order under Section 21	1	—	1
Discharged on expiration of Order under Section 20 extended by Certificate under Section 21a	4	1	5

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Voluntary Patients—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Left hospital	46	60	106
Temporary patients—			
Left hospital	1	—	1

The following deaths have occurred amongst Reading patients in mental hospitals :—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 16	10	18	28
<i>Mental Treatment Act, 1930</i>			
Section 1	4	11	15

Mr. House comments on the fact that there has been an increase in the admission of cases under certification while there has been a small decrease in those admitted on a voluntary basis. But it must be reported that there is a waiting list for admission of voluntary patients to Fairmile Hospital.

Part of the cause of this waiting list is due to shortage of staff but it must also be noted that quite a lot of it is due to the fact that the hospital is having to admit an unduly high proportion of old people suffering from senile mental changes. The prospect of recovery and discharge in such cases is extremely small and therefore beds are occupied for comparatively long periods of time which might be put to better use if they were filled by younger people (as voluntary patients) in whom the prognosis was much better. I

know that Mr. House devotes a great deal of time and effort to the avoidance of certification of people suffering from senile dementia but there is always a number of cases in which certification is the only way of arranging for appropriate hospitalisation. In the pre-1948 days most of these elderly people would have been admitted to a Local Authority chronic sick hospital—indeed a walk round some of the wards at Fairmile reminds one very strongly of the chronic sick wards in the old public assistance hospitals. We know also of the great difficulties which confront doctors who wish to secure hospitalisation of elderly sick and it is rather pointless to suggest that the existing state of affairs could be materially improved by an alteration in the legislation. The only hope seems to be that the medical and social services will find some method of postponing the mental and physical degeneration which takes place and that the seventh age, when it comes, will be a very short one. Unfortunately, we seem to be a very long way from attaining this—indeed the result of most of our efforts so far seems to be to prolong the seventh age of man.

Mr. House also comments on the fact that there is a growing realisation on the part of members of the medical profession of the part which the Local Authority can play in mental health work. At the same time it is pleasing to record the particularly good liaison established with the hospital medical officers and their staff which, during the past year, has continued on a most friendly basis.

(c) Report of the Psychiatric Welfare Officer. Mr. F. B. Martin continued to hold the above appointment, half his salary being reimbursed by the Reading and District Hospital Management Committee in respect of the work which he does in attending the Psychiatric Clinics at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Here again it is pleasing to record the increasing liaison which is taking place between Mr. Martin and the hospital medical officers. Mr. Martin's report includes the following :—

“ During the past year 192 cases were referred, 100 through the out patient clinic and 92 from local authority sources, e.g. medical officer of health, general practitioners, probation officers, ministry of labour and private sources. Clinic sessions attended totalled 136, visits made to old and new patients 345, and office interviews 327.

It is encouraging to observe that the general public is becoming more and more aware of the value of receiving early in-patient observation of treatment, if thought necessary ; the sense of shame and failure at having to enter a mental hospital for treatment is really disappearing save in a minority of cases where, either in the patient or his/her relatives, the “what will the neighbours think” mentality is uppermost. But, generally speaking, relatives do seem much more aware of the importance of accepting the advice or persuasion of the doctor or social worker.

For certain neurotic or psychotic patients who do not require, or are unlikely to benefit from in-patient treatment, the eventual provision of day hospitals would seem to offer a valuable and constructive service to the community and the possibility is looked upon with much optimism and approval by, amongst others, the Fairmile hospital psychiatrists. At present there is inevitably much wastage in time and money (e.g. transport) in the intake of voluntary patients who do not stay the course and it is felt that day hospitals would provide part of the answer to this problem, as well as encouraging the patient to fit in with family and employment backgrounds.

(d) Reading Association for Mental Health. At the annual meeting of this voluntary association held on April 23rd, 1954, it was decided, in view of the small membership—23—that its activities should be suspended for one year. The continuance or otherwise of the Association will be further considered during 1955.

2.—*Mental Deficiency.*

(a) Our main difficulty as in previous years is the shortage of institutional accommodation for mental defectives. This is causing a good deal of hardship in some families where the patients need much more care and supervision than can possibly be provided in their own homes.

I would, however, like to thank the physician superintendents of the mental deficiency hospitals in this area for their kindness in taking patients in on a short term basis when emergencies have arisen in the homes. In 1954 nine patients were dealt with in this way and so relieved the parents of much hardship and anxiety, and made our task much lighter.

Unfortunately, too, we have a waiting list for occupation centre training. We hope that in the near future we will have suitable accommodation and those on our waiting list will then be catered for.

We are very fortunate in Reading in that most of our patients who are employable are fully employed and doing well. For this we must, to a very large extent, thank the Youth Employment Officers and the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour, and the employers, for their sympathetic approach to what can, at times, be a difficult problem.

(1) Particulars of cases reported during 1954:—

	During 1954				Total Cases on Authority's Registers as at January 1st, 1955			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Cases at December 31st ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with." Action taken on reports by—								
(i) Local Education Authorities on children—								
(1) While at school or liable to attend	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) On leaving special schools	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—
(3) On leaving ordinary schools	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Police or by Courts ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other sources ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at December 31st as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by December 31st and thus excluded from (a) or (b) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total number of cases reported during the year	6	4	6	3	—	—	—	—

(2) Disposal of cases :—

(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—								
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	4	4	4	2	24	27	86	83
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	4
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	1	—	2	1	12	5	77	81
(v) Action not yet taken	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—								
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	19
(ii) Action unnecessary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 2	6	4	6	3	37	32	201	187

(3) Classification of defectives in the Community on January 1st, 1955 (according to need at that date) :—

(a) Cases included in Item 2 (a) (i) to (iii) above in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority :—					Under 16		16 and over	
(1) In urgent need of hospital care :—					M.	F.	M.	F.
(i) "Cot and chair" cases	...	...	...	...	—	3	1	—
(ii) Ambulant low-grade cases	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
(iii) Medium-grade cases	...	...	...	...	6	—	1	1
(iv) High-grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
(2) Not in urgent of hospital care :—								
(i) "Cot and chair" cases	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low-grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Medium-grade cases	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	1
(iv) High-grade cases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 3 (a)					11	5	2	3

(b) Of the cases included in Items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) and 2 (b) (i) number considered suitable for :—								
(i) Occupation centre	...	...	...	...	19	23	23	36
(ii) Industrial centre	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Home training	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 3 (b)					19	23	23	36

(c) Of the cases included in Item 3 (b) number receiving training on January 1st, 1955 :—								
(i) In Occupation Centre	...	...	...	...	14	17	16	21
(ii) In Industrial Centre	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii) At Home	...	...	...	...	—	2	—	—
Total of Item 3 (c)					14	19	16	21

(4) Number of mental defectives who were in hospitals under community care (including voluntary supervision) or in "places of safety" on January 1st, 1954, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1954.

					M.	F.	Total
(a) Ceased to be under care	...	...	...	...	28	12	40
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
					30	16	46

(5) Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or not longer under care :—

(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
						M.	F.
(b) Number who have married during 1954	...	...	...	...	...	—	3

Location of Institutional Cases :—

	M.	F.	Total
(a) Borocourt; 64, Brentry Colony, 6; Royal Earlswood, 1; Wayland House, 30; St. Mary's, Alton, 1; Pewsey Hospital, 20; Botley's Park, 3; Battle Hospital, 1; State Institutions, 9; Normansfield Teddington, 1; Wokingham Hospital, 2; Old House, Wheatley, 3; Winslow Institution, 4; Purley Park, 2; Manor House, Aylesbury, 9; Agricultural Hostel Newent, 1; Cumnor Rise, 1 ...	82	76	158
<i>Patients on Licence from Institution :—</i>			
Employed away from home, 14; Employed living at home, 2; Not employed, 1	7	10	17
(b) <i>Patients under Guardianship :—</i>			
Receiving National Assistance, 10; in Employment, 4	10	4	14
(c) Under Statutory Supervision	110	110	220
(d) Action not yet taken	1	—	1
(e) Disposal of cases during 1954 :—			
Granted Licence from Institution	4	8	12
Returned from Licence to Institution	2	2	4
Died	1	1	2
Left the District	1	—	1
Discharged from Orders	1	1	2
Released from Supervision	8	2	10
Admitted to Institution	8	5	13
(f) Supervised on behalf of other Authorities ...	2	15	17

(b) **Occupation Centre.** Classes have been held during the school terms from Mondays till Fridays.

Hours of attendance. Mondays, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

<i>Numbers attending as at December, 1954</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
From Borough	31	37	68
„ Berkshire	1	1	2
„ Oxfordshire	1	—	1
„ Regional Hospital Board ...	2	—	2

Staff

Supervisor

Three assistants

One Guide Assistant

Caretaker, assisting part-time with gardening and games

One part-time Instructor, two sessions weekly for boot repairing.

Notes on Staff. Mr. A. H. Allen passed successfully his course of training and obtained his Supervisor's Diploma N.A.M.H. He resumed his duties at the Centre on July 19th.

Transport. The same facilities have been provided as before, namely, two special buses operating in

- (a) Whitley area ;
- (b) Lower Caversham and Oxford Road area.

Free tickets have been issued to 3 adult pupils not requiring escort who either reside in districts not covered by our buses or who attend for special classes only.

Meals. A mid-day meal has been served daily on Mondays till Fridays by means of the School Meals Service at a total cost of 1/5 per meal. Pupils have contributed 9d. per meal unless poor financial circumstances justified free meals. The eligibility for free meals has been based on the school assessment basis. As at December 31st, 14 pupils have received free meals.

Use of School Clinic. As before we have been indebted throughout the year to the staff of the School Clinic for

- (a) a routine medical inspection ;
- (b) a monthly cleanliness inspection ;
- (c) dental and any other necessary treatments.

Curriculum includes :—

- (a) Religious instruction.
- (b) Handwork planned to meet requirements of all grades.
- (c) Domestic duties.
- (d) Physical activities including instruction in Margaret Morris Movement.
- (e) Speech training and singing, puppet plays.
- (f) Percussion band.
- (g) Cookery for girls one session weekly.
- (h) Games for boys one session weekly at Palmer Park.

Other Activities.

- (a) Summer outing to Littlehampton for all except the young children, very low grades and those unable to stand the journey.
- (b) For those unable to go to Littlehampton we arranged a short coach ride followed by a picnic tea on Kingwood Common.
- (c) Open Day—This year we included a demonstration of Margaret Morris Movement.
- (d) Christmas Party. This took place at the Town Hall and was greatly enjoyed.
- (e) Monthly meetings of the Guild of the Brave to which twelve of our pupils still belong.
- (f) A football match was played at Borocourt on March 31st which was thoroughly enjoyed, also the tea which was kindly provided.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The table on page 78 gives particulars of the notification of infectious diseases received during the year. These figures include patients who are not normally resident in the Borough.

Diphtheria. For the sixth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

Scarlet Fever. The notifications again showed a decrease on the previous year and the majority of cases appeared to be of a very mild type.

Whooping Cough. There has been a considerable decrease in the notifications of this disease. I am not so bold as to say that this is due entirely to the introduction of immunisation but I would say that we check up all the notified cases and we find that practically none of them have been immunised.

Measles. 1954 was not a measles year and therefore the notifications are low.

Food Poisoning. No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year. The 10 cases which were reported were isolated cases and it was not possible to incriminate any particular article of food.

Poliomyelitis (see also School Medical Report). There were no cases of infantile paralysis in the Borough during 1954. Several domiciliary visits were made to contacts of cases notified in other districts and advice was given regarding prophylactic measures. The sub-joined tables will be of interest as showing the results of our follow up of cases which have been notified during the past five years.

TABLE 1

Year 1950			Non-paralytic cases		Paralytic cases		Deaths		Total cases in each age group
Age Group			M.	F	M.	F	M	F	
0-5+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
5-9+ years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14+ years	...	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
15-19+ years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24+ years	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	1	3
25 years and over	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of males and females in each category			2	1	4	—	—	1	—
Grand Total			3		4		1		8

TABLE 2

Year 1951			Non-paralytic cases		Paralytic cases		Deaths		Total cases in each age group
Age Group			M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-5+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
5-9+ years	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
10-14+ years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24+ years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 years and over	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of males and females in each category			1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Grand Total			1		1		—		2

TABLE 3

Year 1952			Non-paralytic cases		Paralytic cases		Deaths		Total cases in each age group
Age Group			M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-5+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5-9+ years	...	...	1	—	1	2	1	—	5
10-14+ years	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15-19+ years	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
20-24+ years	...	...	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
25 years and over	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Total of males and females in each category			1	1	4	5	1	1	—
Grand Total			2		9		2		13

TABLE 4

Year 1953			Non-paralytic cases		Paralytic cases		Deaths		Total cases in each age group
Age Group			M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-5+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
5-9+ years	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
10-14+ years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24+ years	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
25 years and over	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total of males and females in each category			1	—	—	4	—	—	—
Grand Total			1		4		—		5

1954—NO CASES

The total number of cases in each age group is summarised in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Year	1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		Total
Age Group	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-5+ months ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-11+ months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	5
5-9+ years ...	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	1	—	—	7
10-14+ years ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
15-19+ years ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
20-24+ years ...	2	1	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	8
25 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Total males and females in each year ...	6	2	1	1	6	7	1	4	—	—	28
Grand Total	8		2		13		5		—		28

Routine visits were made on all paralytic cases which occurred during the previous four years to record progress and to ensure that the children who were still handicapped were receiving the appropriate type of education for their individual requirements.

The position in 1954 with regard to the adults and their occupation is shown in the table below :—

TABLE 6

Year of onset of illness	Fully restored to normal activities		Resumed normal occupation with slight difficulty		Resumed normal occupation with considerable difficulty		Severely disabled and not working		Not traced		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	4
1953	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1954	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

All children who had paralytic poliomyelitis during the corresponding period were found to be fit to attend ordinary school.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954, CLASSIFIED IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable disease	Number of Cases notified									
	Age Groups								At all ages	
	Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years		
Scarlet Fever ...	1	5	20	63	8	3	3	—	103	...
Whooping Cough ...	8	20	14	33	3	1	1	—	80	...
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Measles ...	4	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	13	...
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ...	4	—	2	8	3	6	7	7	44	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis, paralytic; non-paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	39	...
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Paratyphoid ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Food Poisoning ...	1	1	1	3	1	—	2	1	10	...
Erysipelas... ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	23	...
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Typhus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Relapsing Fever ...	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Dysentery ...	—	2	9	11	7	3	10	2	50	...
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	—	1	1	10	6	31	21	11	85	...
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	5	...
	20	40	52	131	28	61	76	28	454	...

TUBERCULOSIS

These remarks should be read in conjunction with those under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

The following table shows the number of primary cases of primary tuberculosis and the number of deaths due to the disease since 1948 :

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	136.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,770
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300

Clinic Premises. I am pleased to be able to report that on July 12th the Clinic was moved from its unsatisfactory premises at 1 London Street to Battle Hospital where a new Chest Clinic has been created by the adaptation of an old block. This clinic also serves the surrounding County area and, to a certain extent, provides facilities for follow up of patients from Peppard Chest Hospital. The Council contributes towards certain agreed items of expenditure at this clinic.

During the year Dr. A. J. Karlsh was appointed as Consultant Chest Physician. Dr. Karlsh had been with us for some time as Senior Hospital Medical Officer and I am pleased to report that he has co-operated well with me during the whole time he has been here.

Tuberculosis Register. The following particulars relate to the position on December 31st, 1954 :—

Primary Tuberculosis	...	...	95
Tuberculous pleural effusions	...	...	105
Pulmonary tuberculosis :—			
(a) T.B. negative			
Group I	...	...	288
„ II	...	...	97
„ III	...	...	8
			—
			393
(b) T.B. positive :			
Group I	...	...	229
„ II	...	...	372
„ III	...	...	120
			—
			721
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	105
Combined Tuberculosis	...	...	20
Total tuberculous cases	...	...	1,439
Non-Tuberculous cases under clinic observation on 31/12/54	...	...	590

SOURCE AND TYPE OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

	M.M.R.	School Medical Service	Contacts	Fluoroscopy	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Transfers	Other	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis :									
<i>Primary Tuberculosis :</i>									
Positive ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Negative ...	2	2	9	11	5	2	1	—	32
<i>Tuberculosis Pleural Effusion :</i>									
Positive ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Negative ...	—	—	2	2	5	4	4	—	17
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>									
Positive ...	9	—	3	28	12	13	21	6	92
Negative ...	17	—	10	21	8	4	8	9	77
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	28	3	25	63	30	24	34	15	222
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis									
Combined Tubercle ...	—	1	—	3	1	8	3	—	16
	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Total Respiratory and Non-respiratory Tuberculosis ...	28	4	25	66	31	33	38	15	240

It is also gratifying to be able to report that we are discovering an increasing number of patients in the early stage of the disease. The length of treatment is thereby considerably diminished and the prospects of ultimate recovery are much enhanced. The following table gives the number and distribution of new sputum positive cases since 1950 :—

	Number of Cases	*B.1 per cent	*B.2 per cent	*B.3 per cent
1950	102	27	43	30
1951	108	32	54	14
1952	100	39	50	11
1953	121	40	45	15
1954	92	39	45	16

* Ministry of Health classification

It will be seen that B.1 cases have gone up from 27% to 39% while B.3 cases have fallen from 30% to 16%.

Primary Notifications. 129 new notifications were added to the register, including 34 inward transfers. This leaves 95 primary notifications, i.e. 92 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory cases.

Primary Respiratory Notifications :—

Men	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Women	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
							—
							92
							—

Of these 71 were positive, 24 negative.

The number of 92 respiratory notifications represents a drop from the 1953 figure of 105.

The non-respiratory notifications were only 3 compared with 29 in 1953. This is somewhat disconcerting and probably reflects neglect of notification rather than dramatic disappearance of this type of case from our hospitals.

Two of the three cases were tuberculous meningitis in children, one of these in a "problem" family. It is a matter of some satisfaction, however, that only two notifications of the total number of 95 were made after death.

New Contacts Examined. 513 new contacts were examined during the year, representing 5.34 contacts per new positive case. 25 of these were found to be tuberculous, an incidence of 5%, including 6 positive cases.

B.C.G. Vaccinations. 236 contacts were B.C.G. vaccinated in 1954. This brings the total number of cases vaccinated in the Reading Borough since 1950 to 1,108.

Cases : T.B. Positive, July to December, 1954. Cases on the register which had positive sputum during the six months ended December 31st, 1954, were :—

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
31	21	52

This compared with the equivalent number of 79 in 1953.

Diagnostic Fluoroscopy. A total of 2,775 cases were screened. 558 were recalled for further investigation. 66 cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed. Among the diagnoses other than tuberculosis were 16 cases of carcinoma of the lung.

This service, which was started in 1947, filled an essential gap and is very popular with the public and general practitioners alike. There are some obvious disadvantages, however, with this procedure and with the delivery of the "Odelca" Miniature Camera, screening will be appreciably reduced.

Domiciliary Treatment. An average of 41 patients per week were treated at home, compared with 32 in 1951 and 51 in 1953. 382 home visits were made by the medical staff and 1,766 visits by the two tuberculosis visitors.

Discharges from Register.

		<i>Died</i>			
	<i>Recovered (all causes)</i>	<i>Transferred</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Totals</i>	
Tuberculous Cases :—					
T.B. Positive	1	8	26	4	39
T.B. Negative	32	5	15	28	80
					<hr/> 119 <hr/>
Contacts	...	...	...	...	188
Non-Tuberculous Cases	...	...	...	...	586

Rehabilitation. This essential function of the chest service continued to expand during the past year.

The vast majority of tuberculous patients were absorbed back into industry, but many had to change to more suitable employment.

During 1954 new jobs were found for 66 patients, including 6 who took training courses.

It is the men over 45 years of age, whose numbers are increasing, and the chronic sputum positive patients, fewer in number, who have the most difficulty in finding employment.

Care and After-Care. Reference to this important subject will be found in my remarks on our work under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Patients suffering from venereal disease in Reading are treated at the Clinic of the Royal Berkshire Hospital which also serves a large area of the surrounding countryside. The following are the details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time in 1954 :—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	6
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	16
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	79
					<hr/>
					101
					<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER. Mr. O. Kean, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, has been good enough to supply the following information:

1. The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

2. The chemical and bacteriological examination of water was continued in the Department's Laboratory during the year, with samples taken at all stages in the treatment processes and from the distribution system. In addition, samples were submitted at regular intervals for independent examination by the Counties Public Health Laboratories. The numbers of samples from each point, together with the type of examination made, are set out below :—

A. *By the Counties Public Health Laboratories*

Source	Type of Water	Number of Samples	
		Full Bact.	Full Chemical
Fobney Works ...	Final water chlorinated	5	4
Southcote Works ...	Final water chlorinated	5	4
Pangbourne Works	Raw water ...	4	4
Pangbourne Works	Final water chlorinated	5	—
		19	12

B. *By the Water Department Laboratory.*

Source	Type of Water	Number of Samples		
		Full Bact.	Full Chem.	Partial Chem.
Fobney Works ...	Raw River water ...	25	12	13
	After prefilters ...	3	3	—
	Individual filtrates ...	8	—	8
	Bulked filtrate, unchlorinated ...	49	12	37
	Final water, chlorinated	104	12	92
Southcote Works ...	Final water, chlorinated	101	12	89
Pangbourne Works	Raw water ...	63	49	14
	Final water, chlorinated	74	12	62
Bath Road Reservoir	As distributed ...	55	12	43
Tilehurst Water Tower ...	As distributed ...	38	—	38
Parfitt Reservoirs...	As distributed ...	16	—	16
Hill Reservoirs ...	As distributed ...	11	—	11
Tap Samples ...	As distributed ...	40	—	40
Totals ...		587	124	463

In all, therefore, 1,205 water examinations were made during the year, 31 by the Counties Public Health Laboratories and 1,174 in the Water Department Laboratory.

Apart from two samples, where slight abnormalities involving soil and vegetable derived organisms were detected, which in themselves are not harmful, final water samples proved to be of a satisfactory standard of bacterial purity.

The following are submitted as being typical reports. As may be seen, the well supply has the characteristics of a chalk water of a high standard of purity, requiring only precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment. The river source, on the other hand, varies in composition and bacterial load with seasonal and climatic conditions, requiring at all times carefully controlled treatment involving filtration and chlorination to obtain a pure and wholesome final water.

RIVER KENNET SOURCE

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Slightly opalescent, but with little colour, and a small deposit of mainly mineral debris, but with some diatoms and algae threads.				Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered : 10				Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	16.5	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH	8.0	...	...	...	7.6
Chlorides	14.0	...	...	...	14.5
Hardness : Total	245	...	...	...	235
Carbonate (Temporary)	210	...	...	...	200
Non-carbonate (Permanent)	35	...	...	...	35
Nitrates	2.5	...	...	...	2.5
Nitrites	0.01	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia (N)	0.040	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia (N)	0.170	...	...	...	0.045
Iron	0.18	...	...	...	Less than 0.02
Other metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	2	...	...	...	5
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	290	...	...	...	285
Alkalinity... ..	210	...	...	...	200
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	1.60	...	...	...	0.65
Residual chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.4
<i>Bacteriological Results</i>					
No. of Colonies developing per ml. on Agar in :—					
1 day at 37° C.	1,750	...	...	...	10
2 days at 37° C.	3,500	...	...	...	16
3 days at 22° C.	37,000	...	...	...	15
Presumptive Coliform Reaction :—					
Present in	0.01	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.001	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	3,500	...	...	...	0
Bact. Coli (Type I) :—					
Present in	0.1	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.01	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	500	...	...	...	0

PANGBOURNE WELL SOURCE

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Clear and bright ...				Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Faint; chlorinous
Reaction pH	7.0	...	...	...	7.0
Chlorides	12.5	...	...	...	12.5
Hardness : Total	290	...	...	...	290
Carbonate (Temporary)	255	...	...	...	255
Non-carbonate (Perm-					
manent)	35	...	...	...	35
Nitrates (N)	4.8	...	...	...	4.8
Nitrites (N)	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia (N)	0.000	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia (N)	0.005	...	...	...	0.000
Iron	Less than 0.02	...	...	...	Nil
Other metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	32	...	...	...	34
Total Solids, dried at 180° C	350	...	...	...	350
Alkalinity... ..	255	...	...	...	255
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours					
at 27° C.	0.05	...	...	...	0.00
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.3
<i>Bacteriological Results</i>					
No. of Colonies developing					
per ml. on Agar in :—					
1 day at 37° C.	0	...	...	...	0
2 days at 37° C.	4	...	...	...	0
3 days at 22° C.	20	...	...	...	2
Presumptive Coliform Re-					
action :—					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Bact. Coli (Type I) :—					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.

3. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no special precautions are required in this respect.

4. During the year under review there were no instances of abnormal contamination or pollution of the sources from which water is abstracted, and the routine measures comprising filtration, chlorination, tests for residual chlorine and regular analyses proved adequate to maintain a satisfactory standard of purity.

5. The estimated total population supplied from the Corporation's mains in the whole area of supply was 127,502 and the total

quantity of water supplied for all purposes during the year was 2,244,883,000 gallons.

The number of dwellinghouses, together with other premises having domestic occupation, supplied from the Corporation's mains was 34,587 at March 31st, 1954. Of this number, 34,514 were supplied direct and the remaining 73 were supplied by means of standpipes.

According to my records, 19 houses within the Borough do not take a supply from the Corporation's mains, but are supplied from private wells.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :—

The year has seen much activity in various aspects of the work. Environmental health matters received considerable attention during the 1954 Parliamentary Sessions and the legislation resulting from it has appreciably increased the work of the Section ; new Acts were introduced in respect of housing, slaughterhouses and the slaughter of animals. It would appear that housing is likely to be to the fore in the coming year ; indeed, much work was done in this connection in 1954 in preparation for action on slum clearance which, together with housing repairs, is a problem possibly not so well known to many, but is a matter very real to those living in unsatisfactory conditions.

The general trend at the Abattoirs is for increased throughput and meat inspection is probably the Department's biggest single problem. Since decontrol, slaughtering has occurred almost every Saturday and Sunday mainly for export purposes and this has meant that Meat Inspectors have been engaged for long hours at unusual times, but the staff have been most loyal in meeting this responsibility. The quality of animals passing through the Abattoir, particularly since decontrol, has been of a high standard and is reflected in the amount of meat condemned.

Staffing problems are generally difficult and this Section was no exception. In order to assist in meeting future needs of the service, it was decided to introduce a pupilage system and one pupil Sanitary Inspector, so far, has been appointed. The establishment was re-arranged during the year to relieve District Sanitary Inspectors of prolonged meat inspection duties by introducing a degree of specialisation. Two Inspectors are to be allocated principally for meat inspection duties and the appointments, which will take effect in the new year, should do much to ease this problem. The duties relating to Food and Drugs Administration and Housing are also to receive special attention.

A matter of general interest occurred in the publication of the Beaver Report on atmospheric pollution and the Government has promised legislation to invoke the recommendation made in the Report.

Whilst Reading is not a problem town in this respect, it is clear that some improvement can be made and it will be interesting to see what measures are introduced to deal with what is, in some areas, a serious matter.

Although there are many respects in which work during the year was not covered as one would desire, with the resources available, satisfactory progress was made. It is hoped with the improved staff position that it will be possible to give some thought to other important aspects of the work next year, for instance in regard to food hygiene, the education and instruction of food handlers and, perhaps, house-to-house inspection. It is possible, also, that legislation may be introduced in respect of persons engaged in offices etc., and other places of non-industrial employment, in which case, an increasingly heavy programme is ahead.

1954 was my first full year in Reading and I must say how grateful I am to the staff, both technical and clerical, for their persistent help and ready co-operation throughout the year.

The report has been presented in a similar way to last year's :— in four parts. (1) Housing ; (2) Food Administration ; (3) Nuisances and Work under the Public Health Act ; and (4) General.

1. HOUSING

The Housing Survey, started in 1953 for the purposes of obtaining information for future slum clearance, was almost complete at the end of the year. It was commenced following the Government's White Paper on Housing and in anticipation of the Housing Rents and Repairs Act 1954, which came into operation in August. One of the first duties the Act requires is an assessment of the housing position, particularly in regard to unfit houses intended for demolition, and information must be forwarded by local authorities outlining their proposals for dealing with unfit houses and such other houses which ought to be included in clearance areas. In the terms of the White Paper "The Minister of Housing and Local Government must inform himself and must be able to inform Parliament of the way in which local authorities are setting about the task and must be able to satisfy himself that their proposals singly and totally do not exceed or fall short of the resources that can properly be allocated for this purpose." A comprehensive, if not detailed, plan of how unfit properties shall be dealt with will have to be prepared and submitted to the Minister. This procedure follows the precedent set in 1931 when a similar programme had to be submitted. It is made clear in the White Paper that the pace and

phasing of a slum clearance programme must be for the local authority to determine in the first place—by measuring that need against the general housing need. It was emphasised, however, that each local authority ought to have a programme to ascertain the size of the slum clearance programme, have a phased plan of demolition and replacement, and that they should soon begin to put such a programme into operation.

An innovation in regard to unfit properties is the power which is given to local authorities to acquire them by compulsory purchase order after formal clearance action and then continue them in occupation until such time as they can be demolished. This procedure is intended for use where the housing problem is such that it is not possible to complete demolition for some time and it is necessary that the conditions for the occupants should be made more tolerable. The repairs required would be done by the Corporation and the cost is subject to grant aid from the Treasury. It is suggested that this interim stage in the treatment of slums will be an integral part of all local authorities' programmes, wherever it is not possible to demolish and replace all the unfit houses in the district within say five years.

The Act also includes provisions for the raising of rents by landlords in certain circumstances. The tenant's position is safeguarded, however, since if the house is not in a good state of repair or is unfit for habitation, the tenant may be issued with a Certificate of Disrepair. The Certificate can be obtained from the local authority, if the circumstances warrant it, on payment of 1/-, which can be recovered from the landlord. The Certificate is only revoked, and thereby the rent increase permitted, when the house is made fit for habitation. There were seventeen applications for Disrepair Certificates from residents in the town up to the end of the year; in each case a Certificate was issued.

The provisions for rent increase under the new Act would appear to be quite reasonable with regard to houses which are not in a bad state of disrepair. Where, however, there is a marked deterioration in the structure of the house, the cost of bringing it up to the standard required by the Act may be quite considerable and events suggest that some owners are deciding that the expense would not be justified. It must be appreciated that the extent to which action can be taken by the Department under the repairs sections of the Housing Act is to make a house fit for habitation and this, only where it can be made fit at reasonable cost. However, it does not necessarily mean that the works which can be required by a statutory notice will put the house into that state of repair necessary for rent increase, so that reasonable cost must still be related in many instances to pre-war rents. It is suggested by the Government White Paper that if a house cannot be made "fit for human habitation"

at reasonable expense it becomes a candidate for demolition and replacement ; or under the proposals in the Act for repair by the local authority with the aid of Exchequer grant pending demolition. This approach, to a problem which has become more acute since 1939 because of the increase in cost of repair and static rents, will certainly relieve many owners of unfit property of a continuing liability, but does it not also point to the need for more careful enquiry into the relationships between present day values of housing accommodation, the cost of repairs and pre-war rents ?

The inspection of houses in the district has been continued but it has not been possible to effect systematic routine inspection, most of the inspections being made following the receipt of complaints. Where defective houses were found to be capable of repair at reasonable expense, appropriate action was taken under the Housing Acts. Owners generally have shown a helpful response on the service of intimation notices but statutory notices had to be served in a number of instances ; in five cases the work was done in default by the Corporation and in one instance, where a statutory notice served under the Public Health Act was not complied with, legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £5 was imposed. The Nuisance Order issued by the Court was complied with.

Eleven unfit houses, not capable of repair at reasonable expense, were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Closing Orders made. The statistics relating to housing work carried out during the year are stated below.

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	975
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2,903
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the housing consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	281
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	281
(3)		Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	419

Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	289
---	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to	
(a) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	22
(b) Making of demolition or closing orders ...	12
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	22
(3) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	5

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil
(3) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-Section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	1

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936					
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...			Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined a tenement or room having been rendered fit	...			Nil
E. Proceedings under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953					
	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	11

2. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Food administration probably forms the bulk of the work done by this Section, and details of the activities of the Department in respect of this matter is presented in the same way as last year, as follows :—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat.
- (b) Unwholesome Food condemned.
- (c) Milk.
- (d) Ice Cream.
- (e) Food Handling.
- (f) Sampling : Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(a) *SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT*

Slaughterhouses. The control of slaughtering by the Ministry of Food ceased in July. In anticipation of this event new legislation was introduced in the form of the Slaughterhouses Act 1954, under which Act local authorities were made responsible for ensuring that sufficient slaughtering facilities were available in their respective districts. Following the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses which was set up to consider the whole future of slaughtering a policy of medium centralisation was adopted by the Government, and in the Government White Paper published in January, 1954, it was suggested that local authorities should have regard to these recommendations when considering the licensing of slaughterhouses. In Reading the position was not straightforward in that the new annexe, intended for the slaughter of small animals, in Abattoirs Road was under construction, and furthermore, a considerable population in districts outside Reading was dependent during the years of control on the slaughtering

facilities we had here—a position likely to continue, but at that time to a degree which was most uncertain. A conference was held of representatives of local authorities interested in Reading's slaughtering facilities, and every assistance was offered to enable them to meet their own particular responsibilities. With the invaluable help and guidance from two representatives of the Reading & District Master Butchers' Association co-opted to the responsible Committee dealing with this matter, a scheme of operation was made ready for the date of decontrol. Working on a certain likely minimal figure for the various types of animals which would be required to be slaughtered, a figure put forward by the butchers' representatives, it was decided that the Corporation would operate the Abattoir and continue with the requisition of the Slaughterhouse operated during control by the Ministry of Food. In view of the alterations and improvements which had been made to the Abattoir while under the control of the Ministry of Food, it was not found practicable for individual butchers to slaughter their own animals. It was decided therefore that the whole of the slaughtering in the two establishments under the control of the Corporation should be done by a slaughtering contractor.

In addition to the Public Abattoir, there were 6 private slaughterhouses in the town which had been subject to re-licence year by year during control, but only two of the private slaughterhouses, the bacon factory and the one requisitioned by the Ministry of Food, had operated during that time. However, a slaughterhouse at a small pork and bacon factory and a small slaughterhouse in one of the outlying districts recommenced slaughtering shortly after July but up to the end of the year the other two remained inactive. At the annual review of licences at the end of the year, it was made clear that when the new Annexe in Abattoirs Road was completed and in a position to fully operate, it was intended to declare a resolution of redundancy in respect of some of the private slaughterhouses. With this in view, the Council decided to renew three private slaughterhouse licences for one year and two other licences for three months. The owner of the remaining private slaughterhouse did not renew his application for licence.

Casualty Animals. Following derationing and the decontrol of slaughtering, there was a reduction in the number of casualty animals coming into the slaughterhouse. This work, however, is an ever present duty at the Abattoirs and a most important one for meat inspectors. These casualties are sent in from time to time by owners of animals which have suffered accident, or are sent in for slaughtering because of illness and certain recommendations have been laid down by a Ministry of Food Memorandum regarding the precautions which should be taken before they are accepted at the Abattoir, for slaughtering and dressing. It is obviously important that animals not in a good state of health should be accompanied

by a Veterinary's Surgeon's certificate stating what in his opinion is the trouble, together with particulars of treatment given. In the case of dressed carcasses it is necessary that certain essential organs should accompany the carcass. There was therefore need for regular consultation with veterinarians and owners in connection with this matter. In dealing with doubtful cases, Inspectors have, on a number of occasions, enlisted the help of the Veterinary Research Station of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The position with regard to the provision of essential particulars relating to casualties has improved and has been of considerable assistance to Meat Inspectors. The following table sets out the position with regard to casualty animals inspected during the year :—

Heifers and					
Cows	Steers	Bulls	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
83	41	13	78	80	1,002

Dressed Carcasses received at the Abattoir. During the year 46 sides of beef, 128 calves, 49 sheep and 473 pigs and offal were received at the Abattoir in dressed condition and were inspected before distribution.

Meat Inspection. Due to the decontrol of slaughtering and the staff shortage, there was considerable difficulty in carrying out meat inspection. The establishment was reviewed therefore, and it was decided to replace two district inspectors on the establishment with two Sanitary Inspectors for the specialist duty of meat inspection.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was appreciably higher than the figure for 1953, and the trend since decontrol has been for increased throughput at the slaughterhouses and at the Abattoirs particularly. Some 109,404 animals were slaughtered during the year. The figures for 1953 and 1954 have been compiled graphically and the graphs found on page 96 will give clear indication of the increased slaughtering.

The new Abattoir designed for slaughtering small animals was not completed as expected but it is likely that the establishment will be ready for operation before very long. When it is completed, and if the Corporation decide to operate it, it will enable a considerable throughput to be maintained in public abattoirs both of cattle and small animals.

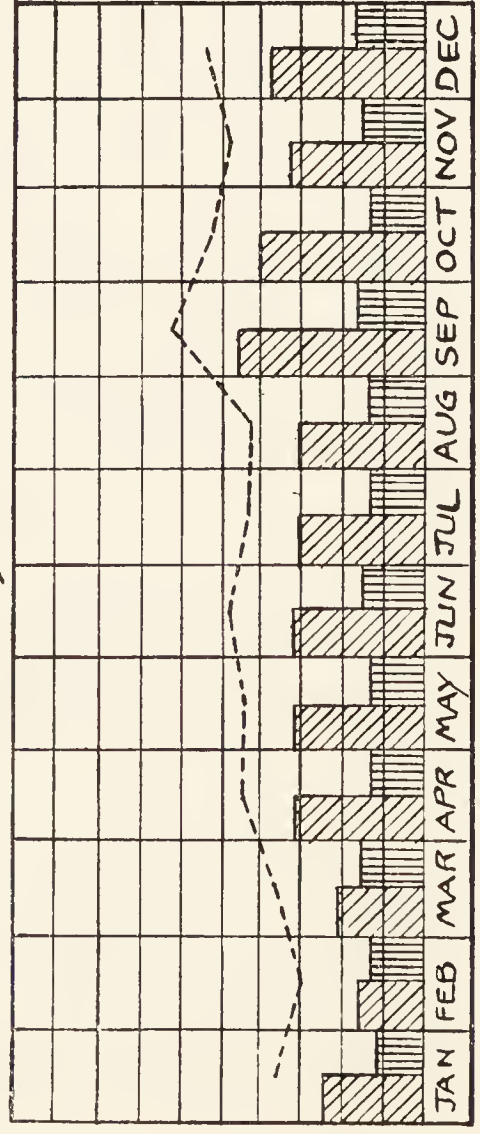
One of the important features of post-decontrol slaughtering at the Abattoirs, has been the regular slaughtering taking place on Saturdays and Sundays and which has been almost entirely devoted to meat for export to other areas. Economically, of course, it is essential that as big a throughput as possible should be obtained through the Abattoirs. It does, however, place a heavy burden

MEAT

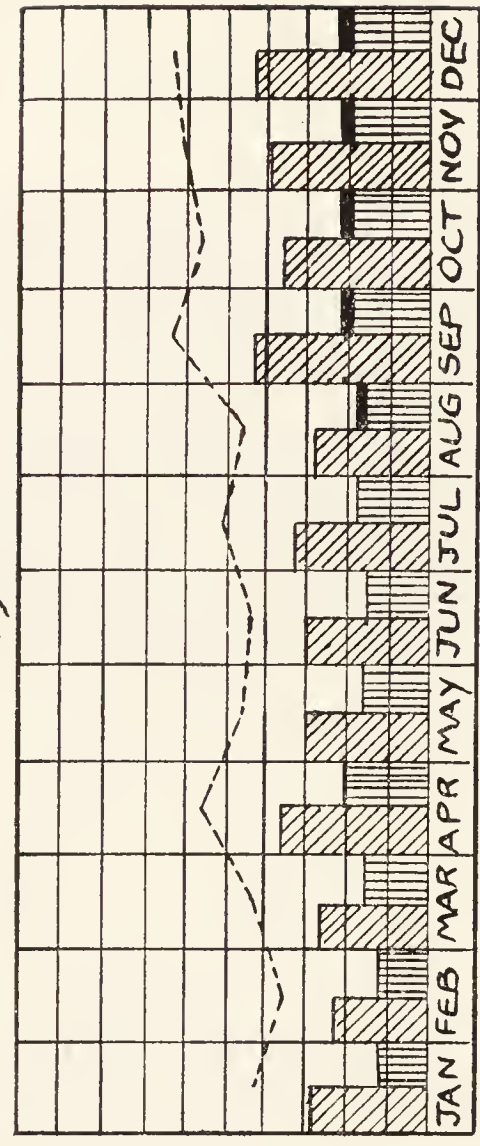
INSPECTION

1953

UNITS



1954



KEY

Public Abattoirs

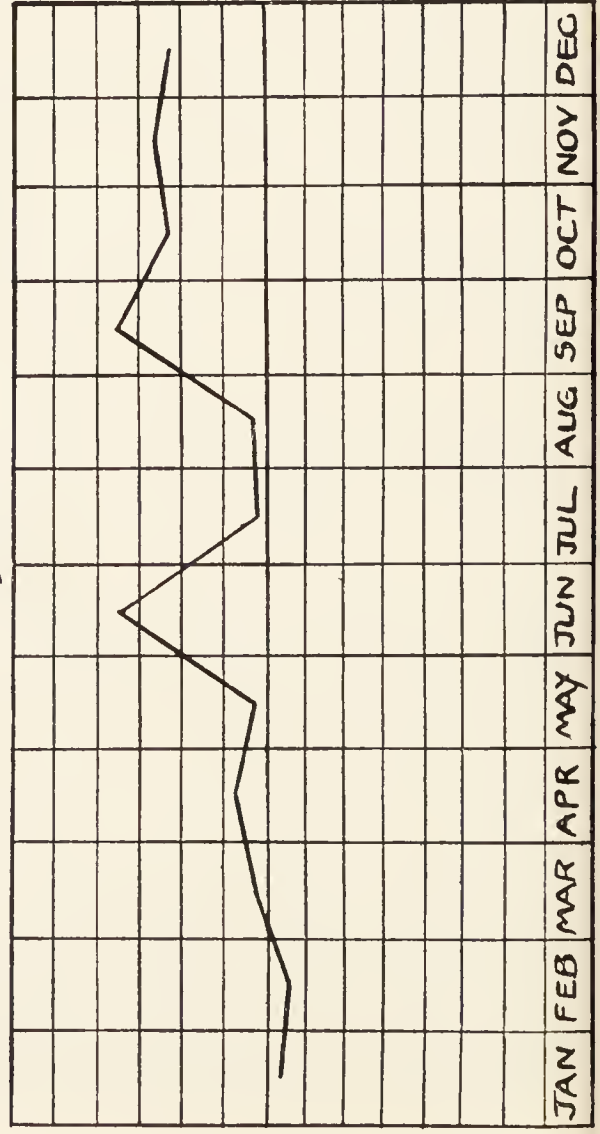
Bacon Factory

Other Slaughterhouses

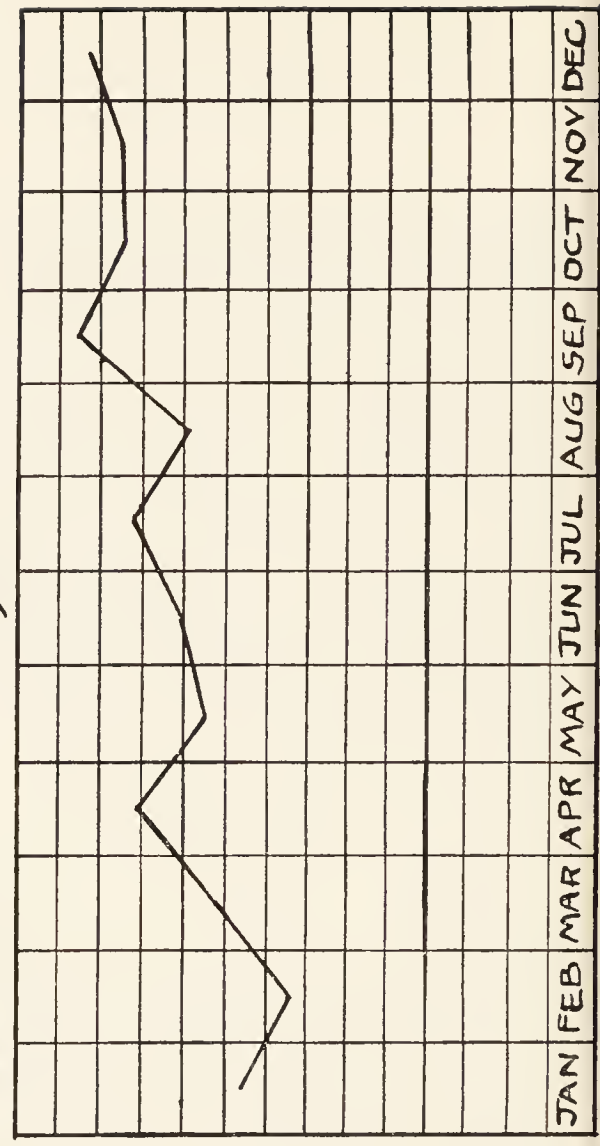
Total

1953

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED



1954



on the meat inspection service and creates a difficulty which is not easy to overcome.

The class of animals, the slaughtering of which has increased considerably during the year, is that of pigs. The facilities for the slaughtering of pigs have not been ideal and it is clear that if the new annexe is not to be devoted for this purpose, some consideration will have to be given to providing more adequate facilities for the slaughtering of these animals.

Generally, the change-over from control to decontrol was carried out quite smoothly and, as was anticipated, there has been considerable demand for the use of the facilities at the public Abattoir, by interests in and around Reading and also from London and other outlying districts.

In discussing the problems and difficulties of meat inspection, comment should be made on the excellent co-operation afforded by the slaughtering contractor. The line system of slaughtering is a difficult and exacting job and only with the help of the slaughtering team can efficient inspection be achieved.

Calves affected with Congenital Tuberculosis. The number of calves affected with congenital tuberculosis during the year has been encouragingly small.

It has been the practice for many years past to forward details of calves affected with congenital tuberculosis to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, so that investigations may be made at the source from which the calf was obtained. This enables the Ministry to eliminate those cows or bulls which are the initial source of infection. It is one of the many ways in which action is being taken to eliminate tuberculosis in cattle.

Cysticercus Bovis. There was an encouraging decrease in the number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found on inspection during the year, some 7 carcasses being so affected. All affected offals were condemned and, after careful examination of carcase muscles and removal of affected parts, the carcasses were refrigerated for the recommended period of 21 days so as to ensure that the meat was safe for human consumption before being released. Inspections of the Cold Stores were made from time to time during the year. The Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been working on the problem of *cysticercus bovis* and it is possible that this work is beginning to show effect. *Cysticercus bovis* is the cystic stage of a tape worm, the habitat of which is man. It is a condition which became prevalent shortly after the termination of hostilities and was stated to be possibly due to the employment on farms of persons originating from European countries where the condition was widespread.

Diseases of Animals Act 1894, 1950. The Meat Inspectors are authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts and are responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of diseased carcasses and the disinfection of infected premises. There were, however, no cases which warranted action by this Department during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933/1954. There were considerable changes in the legislation relating to slaughter of animals during the year. The Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 was amended by the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954 and, under this latter Act, regulations were made for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The conditions of licensing of slaughtermen were considerably tightened up and it is now necessary to specify the instruments which the slaughterman is permitted to use in the stunning of animals and the types of animals he may slaughter. The licences must now be renewed annually instead of every three years and, in the case of horses, a licence is valid only in the district in which it is issued. With the increase in the number of slaughtering establishments now operating and the larger number of animals killed, there has been an increase in the number of licensed slaughtermen on the register, there being a total of 59 compared with 43 last year.

Disposal of Condemned Material from Abattoirs. Mention was made last year at some length, of the methods adopted by the Ministry of Food for the disposal of condemned meat, offals, etc. The practice originally adopted was very much criticised but the modified scheme which was introduced towards the end of the year, whereby the conditions of sale were made more comprehensive and discretion was given to Local Authorities for the exercise of closer control, appeared to work quite satisfactorily.

Since the decontrol in July it has been considered that all materials from an animal fit for human consumption and otherwise, were the property of the owner of the animal slaughtered. It was agreed, however, that condemned material should be disposed of in a manner approved of by the Medical Officer of Health. Up to the end of 1954 condemned material was disposed of by way of processing into fertilisers, feeding stuffs, industrial fats, etc., or to a Zoo. Some 98 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of meat were condemned during the year.

The methods of disposal of condemned meat can create some degree of confliction between economics and the desire to protect public health since the price offered for the material from different sources varies considerably. In the cat and dog meat trade, for instance, raw meat will bring a relatively high price compared with that received for processing. It is, therefore, desirable to ensure that the owner of the condemned meat should receive the best

return available for his condemned meat, provided, at the same time, the requirements of public health are observed.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of the carcase or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry :—

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	22,398	3,231	11,185	22,410	50,180
Number inspected	22,398	3,231	11,185	22,410	50,180
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	37	10	3	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1,412	596	2	—	646
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6·47	18·76	·0045	—	1·31
All diseases except Tuber- culosis whole carcasses condemned	9	10	30	13	59
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5,203	1,201	49	1,821	4,432
Percentage of number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculo- sis	23·27	37·48	·0706	8·18	8·95

Diseased Meat Offals. During the year the following quantities of meat and offals were found to be diseased, unsound or unfit for human consumption :—

Whole Carcasses

Tuberculosis	64
Fevered and Emaciated ...	3
Pyæmia	6
Acute Swine Erysipelas ...	5
Fevered and Moribund Con- dition	31
Skin Urticaria	2
Septicæmia and septic met- ritis	5
Septic mastitis	5
Oedema	18
Uraemia	1
Arthritis	1
Hydraemia and Emaciation...	4
Dead on arrival	12
Died in pen	2
Septic peritonitis	3
Peritonitis	8
Jaundice	3
Traumatic pericarditis ...	4
Gangrene	1
Abnormal odour	2
Septic injury	1
Bruising and injuries ...	3

Part Carcasses

Tuberculosis	93
Bruising and injuries ...	134
Abscess	34
Arthritis	9
Pericarditis	1
Inflammation	2
Gangrene	2
Dog bites	6
Pleurisy	3
Hydraemia and Emaciation...	5
Oedema	2
Septicæmia	1
Peritonitis	1

*Organs, etc.**Heads and Tongues*

Abscess	95
Actinomycosis	155
Tuberculosis	1,476
Injuries	15
Cysticercus Bovis	21
Inflammation	1
Blood splashing	5
Melanosis	1
Carcinoma	1
Ringworm	1
Oedema	1

Lungs

Abscess	184
Congestion	255
Emphysema	104
Pneumonia	957
Pleurisy	1,297
Tuberculosis	1,253
Parasites	48
Cysts	60
Distomatosis	218
Melanosis	12
Actinomycosis	1
Carcinoma	1
Decomposition	2

Hearts

Abscess	25
Pericarditis	1,472
Tuberculosis	87
Cysticercus	11
Blood Splashing	6
Melanosis	2
Haemorrhagic	1
Decomposition	2
Degeneration	1

Spleens

Abscess	10
Ruptures	22
Tuberculosis	54
Peritonitis	15
Melanosis	1
Thrombosis	2
Haemorrhagic	1

Udders

Abscess	1
Mammitis	6
Tuberculosis	14
Induration	74
Fevered Induration	1

<i>Liver</i>				<i>Skirts</i>			
Abscess	...	...	1,052	Tuberculosis	...	...	59
Angioma	...	...	481	Blood Splash	...	...	44
Cirrhosis	...	...	631	Peritonitis	...	...	45
Bovine Distomatosis	...	...	3,122	Cysticercus Bovis	...	...	9
Sheep Distomatosis	...	...	683	Abscess	...	...	3
Necrosis	...	...	725	Melanosis	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	592	Pleurisy	...	...	19
Degeneration	...	...	255				
Cysts	...	...	170				
Peritonitis	...	...	80				
Milk Spots	...	...	507				
Sheep Parasites	...	...	17				
Carcinoma	...	...	5				
Melanosis	...	...	9				
Decomposition	...	...	2				
Putrefaction	...	...	1				
Pleurisy	...	...	1				
<i>Kidneys</i>				<i>Intestines</i>			
Abscess	...	...	47	Johnes Disease	...	...	28
Cysts	...	...	1,235	Congestion	...	...	26
Nephritis	...	...	269	Tuberculosis	...	...	252
Tuberculosis	...	...	47	Peritonitis	...	...	61
Fat Necrosis	...	...	20	Pimply gut	...	...	2
Bruising	...	...	4	Abscess	...	...	8
Peritonitis	...	...	2	Oedema	...	...	3
Inflammation	...	...	2	Ruptured	...	...	1
Melanosis	...	...	8				
Oedema	...	...	4				
Metaplasia	...	...	12				
				<i>Stomachs</i>			
				Abscess	...	...	33
				Tuberculosis	...	...	82
				Inflammation	...	...	50
				Peritonitis	...	...	64
				Flays Peritonitis	...	...	69

Transport of Meat. On the decontrol of slaughtering the transport of meat reverted to private enterprise. In fact, however, a similar organisation still operates and much of the meat removed from the Abattoir is transported in pool vehicles. An endeavour has been made to achieve still further improvement in meat transport vehicles and this particular branch of the work is benefiting with others from the competition arising from the enterprise of private traders. A number of instances occurred where it was necessary to draw the attention of vehicle owners to certain matters but, while there is still considerable room for improvement, a fair standard of cleanliness and hygienic practice was observed during the year.

Knackers' Yard. During the year Model Bye-Laws were published by the Ministry of Food relating to Knackers' Yards. Consultation has taken place with the owner of the one Knackers' Yard in Reading to see how far improvements can be made to the existing premises in order to meet the conditions laid down in the Model Bye-Laws. The register kept in accordance with the Knackers' Yard Order 1948, shows that 148 bovine and 19 equine animals were

dealt with on the premises during the year. No complaints were received in respect of this establishment and the premises were kept in a generally satisfactory manner. Fifty-one visits were made to the premises during the year.

(b) *UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED*

The quantity of meat and other foods examined and found unfit for human consumption is shown in the table below :—

Apricots	...	...	...	...	27 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Blackcurrants	...	...	...	...	72 lbs.
Bread	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Cakes	...	...	...	...	40 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Canned Goods	...	...	...	...	11,057 tins
Carrots	...	...	...	...	196 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	467 lbs.
Crab	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Cream	...	...	...	...	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Currants	...	...	...	...	69 lbs.
Dried Egg	...	...	...	...	226 packets
Eggs	...	...	...	...	297
Fish	...	...	...	...	1,036 lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	197 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Meat and Bacon	...	...	...	...	5,630 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Pears	...	...	...	...	630 lbs.
Prawns	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Rice	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	196 lbs.
Sponge Mixture	...	...	...	...	36 packets
Sweets	...	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Yeast	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.

798 visits were made for this purpose.

(c) *MILK*

Dairy Premises and Milk Processing Plants. Dairy establishments have been well maintained during the year under review. Premises in the town have been inspected and plants and instruments checked as a routine duty.

At the commencement of the year there were 5 milk pasteurising plants in the town, 2 of the batch type of pasteuriser and 3 of the high temperature short time pattern. Two plants discontinued operations during the course of the year, in each case being taken

over by one of the larger dairying concerns. With the increasing tendency for food supplies, particularly of this kind, to pass to the larger concerns, it becomes more important to keep a close supervision on the remaining plants since the supplies passing through reach an ever increasing area and bring a greater number of people at risk in respect of individual plants.

Milk Supply. 1954 was the first full year for the operation of the Milk (Special Designations) Specified Areas Order. The Order was declared in December, 1953, and it required that all milk sold by retail in the town should be milk of a special designation, the special designations being T.T., T.T. (Past), Pasteurised, Sterilised and Accredited Milk. The designation Accredited was no longer recognised in October of the year although no milk of this kind has been sold in the town for some time.

Another requirement which came into effect on October 1st, 1954, was that pasteurised milk sold in bottles or other containers must be filled on the premises at which the milk is pasteurised.

Samples : Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949. The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are shown below.

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	225	Phosphatase ...	223	2	—
		Methylene Blue	194	2	29
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	211	Phosphatase ...	208	3	—
		Methylene Blue	185	1	25
Tuberculin Tested	98	Methylene Blue	93	5	—
Sterilised ...	16	Turbidity ...	16	—	—

Some 534 samples of various types of designated milks were examined by the methylene blue test which is designed to indicate the cleanliness of the conditions under which the Milk has been produced and also to give some guidance as to its keeping quality. A total of 8 samples failed in this respect, 5 of which were T.T. Raw Milk. The conditions under which T.T. milk is produced is a concern of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the appropriate authority was informed. In the case of other failures action was taken by this department. 436 samples were submitted to the phosphatase test and 5 were reported unsatisfactory. Suitable advice

was given in these cases. The phosphatase test is applied to ascertain whether or not sufficient heat treatment has been given to the milk and the test indicates the extent to which the enzyme phosphatase has been destroyed in the heating process. The test is deemed to be satisfied by milk which gives a reading of 2.3 Lovibond blue units or less. Readings higher than this suggest that the milk has been inadequately treated or that there has been infiltration of raw milk into the milk process. It is necessary, therefore, when dealing with unsatisfactory samples to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the failure and it may be necessary in some instances to investigate the process in detail.

16 sterilised milks were examined during the year all of which proved satisfactory.

It will be seen that it was possible during the year under review, to submit a greater number of samples than during the previous year and that the results are reasonably good. It will also be noted that the number of samples declared void total 54 compared with 13 in 1953. The regulations provide that on arrival at the Laboratory, samples of pasteurised milk shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the methylene blue test is applied and if at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the immediate vicinity of the samples exceeds 65 degrees Fahrenheit the test shall be declared void. Some 12% of the pasteurised samples were declared void and it does seem in some respects unsatisfactory, when, on the occasion that temperatures are high, it is possible that no keeping quality test can be applied. This was a point which has been raised with the Association of Municipal Corporations with a view to the matter being taken up with the appropriate Ministry.

Biological Tests. The Laboratory facilities for the biological examination of milk were again very restricted during the year but the three samples submitted for examination were reported negative. This test is applied for the purpose of seeing whether live tubercle is present in the milk and is carried out by means of guinea pig injections.

Milk Bottles. October 1st, 1954, was the date specified by the Minister, when all bottles containing pasteurised milk should be capped with the all-over type of cover. Reading dairies had been prepared to meet this requirement for some time and all now comply with the regulations. During the inspections of dairies it has been noted that a considerable number of bottles being returned by customers are in a very unsatisfactory condition. A sense of responsibility is required in this matter and any steps which can be taken by the consumer to cleanse the bottle before returning, would be appreciated by the dairies to whom this is a serious problem and by this department also. The isolated complaints which are received

concerning unsatisfactory milk bottles undoubtedly originate in the gross misuse of bottles by consumers.

School Milk Supply. The milk supplied to the Council schools is pasteurised and samples have been taken regularly and submitted for examination.

Licensing. The numbers of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, were as follows :—

Plant Licences.

For Milk Pasteurisation	5
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Dealers Licences.

For the sale of " Pasteurised " Milk	...	64
For the sale of " Sterilised " Milk	...	81
For the sale of " Tuberculin Tested " Milk		30
For the sale of " Accredited " Milk	...	Nil

Cream. Cream is a dairy product which is now free from supply control and appears to be enjoying a fairly wide distribution. There was no need for action in respect of this commodity during the year.

(d) *ICE CREAM*

Premises. Premises used for the manufacture and storage and sale of ice cream require to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1938. The number of premises on the register by the end of the year was as follows :—

Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	8
Storage and sale only	...	...	...	...	415

Regular and frequent inspections were made throughout the year of all ice cream establishments. Plant and processing were supervised from time to time and instruments were checked to ensure that the regulations relating to ice cream manufacture were being observed. Advice was given in a number of instances, but in general a reasonable standard of operation was maintained. Careful attention was also given to the manner in which the foodstuffs on these premises were stored.

Chemical Standards. The food standard relating to ice cream as laid down in The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1951 is briefly as follows :—

" Ice cream shall contain not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids-non-fat. Certain adjustments are made in the

standard for ice cream containing fruit, fruit pulp, etc., and also ' Parev ' (Kosher) ice cream."

11 samples of ice cream were procured during the year and were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. 2 samples from the same source were reported unsatisfactory. A warning was issued in this case.

Methylene Blue Provisional Grading. 114 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Test, the results being :—

86	fell within Provisional Grade	1
12	„ „ „ „	2
5	„ „ „ „	3
11	„ „ „ „	4

The Methylene Blue Test, which has been operating for the last few years, is still only being applied experimentally. The provisional gradings are as follows :—

<i>Provisional Grading</i>				<i>Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue</i>
1	...	...	...	4 hours or more
2	...	...	...	2½–4 hours
3	...	...	...	½–2 hours
4	...	...	...	0 hours (i.e. reduction end of incubation period)

Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory, and Grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory.

The standard suggested for manufacturers is that over a period of six months, 50% of the samples should fall in Grade 1, 80% in Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3 and none in Grade 4.

The test has no legal significance, but it forms a very useful guide as to the conditions under which ice cream is produced. The circumstances and conditions of production of all samples falling within the provisional grades 3 and 4, were investigated. Considerable time was spent on this work, which involved in one or two cases the supervision of all stages of processing, together with instruction and advice on steam and chemical sterilisation.

Ice Cream Vehicles. Ice cream vehicles operating in the town were periodically inspected. All are equipped with suitable washing facilities and are of a high standard. Vehicles coming into the town from outside districts were also given attention but this is not always easy.

(e) *FOOD HANDLING, ETC.*

Increased work on housing and meat inspection has resulted in a reduced number of inspections of food premises.

Nevertheless our efforts to improve premises and to give instruction and guidance to food handlers continued throughout the year. The general standard of food handling in the town is fairly good but it was necessary in a number of cases to draw attention to unsatisfactory conditions. One matter which it is felt desirable to emphasise, is the need for good facilities for personal ablution in food establishments. It should be realised that a wash basin with an adequate constant supply of hot water, soap and clean towels is a first essential where food is prepared or handled for sale to the public. It is desirable that facilities should not merely be such as would comply with the law but should be sufficient to encourage their regular and frequent use. It has been gratifying to note the improvement in the position regarding the wrapping of foodstuffs and the increasing practice of pre-packing goods.

Fairly extensive improvements were made to several large food preparing factories during the year including bakeries, cooked meat and bacon curing establishments in addition to many other works of minor improvement. A feature of the co-operation of most firms with the department has been the consultation with inspectors when improvements have been contemplated. It has been interesting to note the increased use of the mobile shop by Reading concerns, in food distribution to more outlying districts, both in the town and outside ; the standard of vehicles being used, in one or two cases particularly, is most creditable.

Several complaints were received during the year concerning extraneous matter in food. Investigations were made into the circumstances of these cases and appropriate action was taken.

There are 101 premises registered in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as follows :—

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	46
Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pressed Meat Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	34
Jam Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pickles Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Potato Crisps Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine Wholesale Stores	...	...	...	...	...	4

In addition to the above, there are 990 other food premises recorded.

2,156 inspections were made to food premises. 21 informal notices were served requiring improvements. In the main, traders showed ready co-operation. A summary of the visits is as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	93
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	31

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	187
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	334
Fish Shops and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	129
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	125
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	82
Grocers	...	...	...	...	495
Markets and Stalls	...	...	...	...	85
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	336
School Meals Kitchens	...	...	...	...	77
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	14
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	109

School Kitchens. There was constant liaison with the School Meals Supervisor on many matters of food hygiene and the quality of food being supplied to the School Meals Service. It has been pleasing to note that, in addition to the facilities already there, wash basins with hot and cold water have been installed in the kitchens : an example which might well be followed by the larger food establishments in the town which might be deficient in this respect.

As far as possible food stores were inspected monthly and meat, milk and other supplies to the kitchens regularly checked.

Licensed Premises. 61 visits were paid to licensed premises during the year.

Education. The year's work has been disappointing in so far as it has not been possible to do educational work in respect of food handling to any extent.

It will be known that Food Trade Guilds operate in various parts of the country, the aims and objects of which are to generally bring about an improvement in premises and also to provide some programme for education of food handlers. It would appear that the initial progress which was made with this idea has not been fully maintained and that, whilst some support has been received, in most places only too often has it been the case that the firms who least need guidance in food hygiene have been ready to co-operate, whilst the unsatisfactory establishments have withheld their support. It is felt that the basis for satisfactory conditions in the handling, storage and distribution of food is regular inspection and enforcement of the regulations and that this work should be supplemented by lectures and demonstrations, with a view to creating a sense of responsibility amongst the food handlers themselves. With the probable improvement in the staff position it is hoped that some degree of lecture work and demonstrations may be introduced in the coming year.

New Food Establishments. With the termination of rationing and the dissolution of the Section of the Ministry of Food dealing with it, the department is deprived of a useful source of information in connection with new food establishments. It is a desirable thing before food establishments come into operation, that the premises to be used should comply with requirements of the Food and Drugs Act Bye-laws, etc. However, there is now no means of keeping a check on new food premises except by way of inspection of the district and, with the staff difficulties that most authorities are experiencing, it might be some time before a new place is found. In the meantime, possibly, food has been prepared or stored under conditions which might not be altogether satisfactory and this will continue until such time as the premises are inspected. It seems desirable that there should be some form of notification to the Health Department that a new food establishment is proposed and it may well be that this matter will receive attention when the Clean Food Bill, which has been before Parliament, is made law.

(f) *FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1950*

Sampling. Mr. T. McLachlan, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C., and Mr. F. A. Lyne, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Messrs. Thomas McLachlan and Partners, held the appointment of Public Analyst and Deputy Public Analyst respectively during the year.

A total of 421 samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination during the year, of which 55 (13·07%) were reported to be not up to standard. The list of samples is as follows :

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almond Essence Flavouring ...	1	1	—
Almond Flavoured Mixture ...	1	—	1
Almonds, Ground ...	2	2	—
Ammoniate Tincture of Quinine	1	1	—
A.P.C. Tablets ...	1	1	—
Aspirin ...	5	5	—
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	3	3	—
Bile Beans ...	1	1	—
Blancmange Powder ...	1	1	—
Borax ...	1	1	—
Bread and Butter ...	4	4	—
Bronchial Pastilles ...	1	1	—
Cake Flour Mixture ...	2	2	—
Cake and Pudding Mixture ...	6	6	—
Canned Fish ...	7	7	—
Cascara Sagrada ...	1	1	—
Castor Oil ...	1	1	—
Cheese Spread ...	2	2	—
Chipolatas ...	2	—	2
Chocolate Beverages ...	1	1	—
Cochineal Artificial Colouring ...	1	1	—
Coconut ...	1	1	—
Coconut, Dessicated ...	1	1	—
Coffee ...	1	1	—
Coffee and Chicory ...	4	4	—
Compound Glycerine and Thymol	1	1	—
Corned Beef ...	1	1	—
Cough Mixture ...	2	2	—
Cream ...	5	4	1
Custard Powder ...	1	1	—
Dripping ...	2	2	—
Embrocation ...	1	1	—
Fish Cakes ...	3	3	—
Fish Paste ...	4	4	—
Flour, Self-raising ...	2	2	—
Fruit Salad ...	1	—	1
Ginger ...	3	3	—
Gingerine Essence ...	1	1	—
Glace Cherries ...	1	1	—
Glauber Salts, B.P. ...	1	1	—
Herbs ...	2	2	—
Honey ...	1	1	—
Honey Cough Syrup ...	1	—	1
Ice Cream ...	11	9	2
Jam ...	2	2	—
Jelly Table ...	5	5	—
Jelly Wine ...	1	1	—
Jelly Crystal ...	1	1	—
Lemon Essence ...	1	1	—
Liver ...	1	1	—
Liquid Paraffin ...	1	1	—
Malt Vinegar ...	1	1	—
Marshmallow Crème ...	1	1	—
Meat Paste ...	1	1	—

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Milk	199	158	41
Milk, Condensed	1	1	—
Milk, Flavoured	4	4	—
Mincemeat	2	2	—
Mustard	1	1	—
Mustard Sauce	1	1	—
Nutmeg	1	1	—
Olive Oil	2	2	—
Oranges	1	1	—
Peanut Butter	1	1	—
Pears	1	1	—
Pectin Apple	1	1	—
Peel, Cut Mixed	2	2	—
Pepper	4	4	—
Pepper Flavoured Compound ...	1	1	—
Pickling Spice	1	1	—
Pie, Cottage	1	1	—
Prunes, Dried	1	1	—
Rice	1	1	—
Saccharin Tablets	6	6	—
Sage	1	1	—
Sago	1	1	—
Sauce	6	6	—
Sausages, Beef	11	9	2
Sausages, Pork	8	8	—
Savoury Spread	2	2	—
Soft Drinks, Orange	2	2	—
Soft Drinks, Blackcurrant ...	2	2	—
Soft Drinks, Peppermint ...	1	1	—
Soft Drinks, Other	6	6	—
Soup	5	5	—
Spearmint Lolly	1	—	1
Gin	1	1	—
Rum	1	1	—
Whisky	1	1	—
Steak Pudding	1	1	—
Sugar	2	2	—
Sultanas	1	1	—
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	1	1	—
Tea	2	2	—
Teething Powder	2	2	—
Tincture of Iodine	2	2	—
Tomato Ketchup	1	1	—
Tomato Sauce	1	1	—
Tonic Phos.	1	1	—
Vegetable Laxative	1	1	—
Vinegar Malt	1	1	—
Wines	6	5	1
Wines, Non-alcoholic	5	3	2
Xmas Pudding	1	1	—
Yeast Tablets	1	1	—
Totals	421	366	55

Of the samples procured 199 were of milk, 41 (21%) of which were not up to standard. Of the 41 low standard milk samples, 34 (17% of all milk samples) were genuine milk of poor quality. This figured compared with 38 (20·34%) of genuine but poor quality milk, out of a total of 186 samples of milk obtained last year, 16 (5·28%) poor quality but genuine samples out of a total of 303 samples obtained in 1952 and 10 (4·05%) out of a total of 247 samples in 1951.

With regard to producers, the total number sampled was 71 and 11 of these were responsible for the production of milk of low quality.

Of the total number of milk samples taken during the year the proportion of genuine but low quality is still high. It is known that many dairies are concerned with the position, and while it is possible that this is a matter which may balance itself when we get to the position where the supply far exceeds demand, it is unfortunate when the same price may be paid for milk of poor quality, as that paid for milk of good composition : an occurrence which is by no means uncommon. It does seem that the interest of the consumer would to some extent be protected if regulations were introduced in respect of milk standards. It is argued by the trade that, if poor quality milk was prohibited, considerable harm would be done to the dairy industry. However, there is the customers' interest to consider and it is suggested that if milk of a poor quality had to be sold as such, this unsatisfactory feature of the milk supplies of the country would fast disappear.

In order to illustrate the variable quality of milk being produced and the very poor quality of some compared with others, there are tabled below the six best samples obtained during the year compared with the six lowest. The price paid by the consumer would be the same in each case.

Genuine Milk of Highest Quality		
Sample No.	% Result	
	Fat	S.N.F.
36	6·5	9·59
128	5·4	9·05
122	5·4	8·8
37	5·4	8·8
132	5·2	9·65
193	5·2	9·22
Average	5·5	9·18

Genuine Milk of Lowest Quality		
Sample No.	% Result	
	Fat	S.N.F.
147	2.3	8.52
144	2.5	8.6
218	2.5	8.75
232	2.5	8.8
156	2.55	8.6
136	2.6	8.57
Average	2.5	8.64

The year was marked by a prosecution in the Reading Magistrates Court on the question of sausages. Revocation of a Food Standard Order last year which had laid down standards for sausages left the position rather obscure with regard to meat content and the case was taken to clarify the position. Two samples were involved, one of pork sausages and one of pork chipolatas. In both instances the cases were found proved and a fine imposed. It was argued by the defendants that a fixed standard for sausages would be unjust since a variable meat content was adopted by the trade to meet the palates and pockets of various districts. On the part of the prosecution it was stated that this, of course, could not be objected to provided the public were told precisely what they were buying and it was accepted by the Bench that in this case a reasonable meat content for pork sausages was 65%. The case received publicity and it is sufficient to say that no other cases were taken subsequently. Details of the action taken regarding other samples is shown on the following table :—

Action taken in respect of samples reported during the year as adulterated or below standard :—

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
13	Beef Sausages	Informal	16% deficient in meat	Proceedings instituted in respect of samples Nos. 18 and 25
18	Pork chipolatas	Formal	34% deficient in meat	
24	Beef sausages	Formal	8% deficient in meat	
25	Cambridge chipolatas	Formal	29% deficient in meat	Defendant fined £20 and costs
60	Sterilized cream	Informal	Unfit for human consumption	
86	Honey cough syrup	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Consignment condemned Revised form of label approved
136	Milk	Informal	13.3% deficient in fat	
138	Milk	Informal	1.3% deficient in solids-non-fat	Inferior quality but genuine milk
144	Milk	Formal	16.7% deficient in fat	
146	Milk	Formal	1.3% deficient in solids-non-fat	
147	Milk	Formal	23% deficient in fat	
153	Milk	Formal	13.3% deficient in fat 1.3% deficient in solids-non-fat	
154	Milk	Formal	8.3% deficiency in fat 0.3% deficient in solids-non-fat	
158	Milk	Formal	8.7% deficient in fat 0.5% deficient in solids-non-fat	
159	Milk	Formal	15.0% deficient in fat	
160	Milk	Formal	2.9% deficient in solids-non-fat	
175	Milk	Informal	6.7% deficient in fat	
184	Milk	Informal	6.7% deficient in fat	Warning letter sent to producers
201	Milk	Informal	6.7% deficient in fat, and 1.2% deficient in solids-non-fat	
220	Milk	Formal	11.7% deficient in fat	
221	Milk	Formal	0.95% deficient in solids-non-fat, 3.1% added water	
222	Milk	Formal	4.3% deficient in fat, and 0.6% deficient in solids-non-fat 3.1% added water	
217	Milk	Formal	0.95% deficient in solids-non-fat	
218	Milk	Formal	16.7% deficient in fat	
232	Milk	Formal	16.7% deficient in fat	
233	Milk	Formal	18.3% deficient in fat	
246	Milk	Formal	5.0% deficient in fat	
247	Milk	Formal	10.0% deficient in fat	Inferior quality but genuine milk
248	Milk	Formal	8.3% deficient in fat	
249	Milk	Formal	3.3% deficient in fat	
250	Milk	Formal	5.0% deficient in fat	
251	Milk	Formal	3.3% deficient in fat	
252	Milk	Formal	3.3% deficient in fat	
253	Milk	Formal	6.7% deficient in fat	
254	Milk	Formal	13.3% deficient in fat	

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
255	Milk	Formal	10.0% deficient in fat	Inferior quality but genuine milk
256	Milk	Formal	6.7% deficient in fat	
257	Milk	Formal	10.0% deficient in fat	
258	Milk	Formal	10.0% deficient in fat	
265	Milk	Informal	6.7% deficient in fat	
295	Milk	Formal	4.6% Added water	Producer advised in the matter
296	Milk	Formal	1.3% deficient in solids-non-fat 4.1% added water	
307	Milk	Formal	3.7% added water	
274	Milk	Formal	1.2% deficient in solids-non-fat	Inferior quality but genuine milk
275	Milk	Formal	0.6% deficient in solids-non-fat	
306	Milk	Formal	5.9% deficient in solids-non-fat	
407	Milk	Formal	1.2% deficient in solids-non-fat, and 3.7% added water	Legal proceedings instituted, Defendant fined £3. (Same Producer as samples Nos. 221 and 222)
260	Spearmint Lolly	Informal	Contained fragment of glass	
289	Fruit Salad	Formal	Dirty	Old stock, remainder destroyed
292	Ice Cream	Informal	Contained 2.8% fat	Warning letter sent to producer
294	Ice Cream	Formal	Contained 3.0% fat	
371	Non-Alcoholic Sacramental Wine	Informal	Mis-described	Label suitably revised
406	Non-Alcoholic Sacramental Wine	Informal	Mis-described	
411	British Sherry Brown	Formal	Below proof strength, inferior quality	No action taken
413	Almond flavoured mixture	Formal	Is not a substitute for marzipan	

3. NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Nuisances. In all, 748 complaints were received by the Section from residents in the Borough. 554 informal notices were served during the year for abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects; of these 470 were complied with. Considerable attention has to be given to choked and defective sewers and drains; 182 complaints were received. The authority cleared 99 drains or sewers, repaired 14 and renewed 1. Owners cleared 32 and repaired 6 drains. 1,416 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the complaints regarding drainage.

In dealing with drainage work, mention should be made of the excellent co-operation given in this work by the staff of the Borough

Surveyor's Department. Whether tasks have arisen in the evenings, on Saturdays or on Sundays, they have been done with promptitude and willingness.

Disinfestation and Disinfection. Work in connection with the treatment of verminous persons and premises continued throughout the year. Regular, if not frequent, treatments are given to persons of the lodging house or itinerant type and there were one or two instances where whole families had to be treated following the disclosure of infestation of school children. In addition a number of persons from the Berks county area were treated for scabies.

Appropriate action was taken to deal with 34 instances of infestation by various types of insects—beetles, flies, steam flies, ants, etc. The details of premises treated for bugs or fleas are as follows :—

No. of Complaints Received		No. of Houses Disinfested	No. of Rooms Disinfested	Verminous Persons Cleansed
Council Houses	26	25	58	33
Private Houses	109	72	196	

For some unknown reason there has been a spate of flea infestations this year. A total of 32 premises were treated for this pest, and in 4 cases the infestation was so severe that it was found necessary to remove the bedding for steam disinfestation, treat the whole of the premises and remove the occupants to the School Clinic for bathing to enable the treatment to be given to the premises, persons and personal effects.

There were 507 instances where bedding and furniture of existing and prospective council house tenants were inspected. The purpose of this work is a precautionary measure to avoid the possibility of infestation being unwittingly transferred to council property, but only in one case was it found necessary to give disinfestation treatment. Mention was made in the report last year, of the extensive treatment given to a local hospital establishment for an infestation by *Monomorium pharaonis* (Pharaoh's Ant). It is pleasing to report that these premises are still reported free from infestation.

Smoke Abatement. Several complaints were received during the year with regard to nuisances from excessive smoke and grit from factory chimneys. Where nuisances were established, representations were made to the firms concerned and the nuisances were abated. In one case a solid fuel burning plant was converted to oil firing and it is understood from the management that its operation is both efficient and nuisance free. Discussions have also taken place with another firm in the town which has given trouble on occasion from

excessive smoke emission, and here also, consideration is being given to the installation of an oil burning unit. The development which has taken place in recent years with regard to oil firing furnaces has brought about considerable improvements with this type of plant, and provided they are operated in a reasonable and efficient manner, they can be expected to run almost free from any kind of nuisance. Improvements were also made to a grit arrestation plant in one of the local foundries following an investigation into complaints from local residents of a grit nuisance.

However, it is disappointing to report that this aspect of the work has again been mostly concerned with complaints, it not having been found possible to make a more detailed enquiry into the position.

Infectious Diseases. 231 inspections of premises following notification of infectious diseases were made during the year. Advice was offered to householders on matters relating to isolation in cases which were home nursed.

Common Lodging Houses. The three common lodging houses in the town provide accommodation for 126 persons. The establishments were inspected regularly during the year, some 86 visits being made.

The structural conditions and the position with regard to provisions of essential amenities is not very satisfactory but the respective keepers have continued to maintain their houses in a reasonably clean condition. The difficulty with these premises is that they are worn and outmoded and in the two smaller establishments it is not considered an economic proposition on the part of the owners to carry out the necessary works. The largest lodging house is now owned by the Corporation and its future use is under consideration. At the present time these houses are filling an urgent social need in the town since a large proportion of the inmates can be considered in the nature of semi-permanent residents. Indeed, a number are old age pensioners who have resided there for a considerable number of years. The position is arising, however, when a firm hand will have to be taken with these premises and before that time arrives serious consideration will have to be given as to what alternative accommodation can be provided for the persons who will be displaced. It would appear that the use of common lodging houses today is very much removed from its original purpose. Originally these were mostly used by the itinerants passing through the town but today the accommodation available for this type of person is very limited indeed.

Offensive Trades. There was no change in the number of offensive and associated trades within the Borough. They were 1 blood drier, 3 tripe boilers and dressers and 1 rag and bone dealer. These premises were regularly inspected and found at all times to be

kept in a satisfactory condition and properly conducted. Notices to cleanse and limewash were given when required, and the traders concerned have always been co-operative. No complaints were received during the year.

Movable Dwellings. There was a total of 110 licensed caravans on the register at the end of the year. 817 visits were paid to sites used for movable dwellings and to caravans visiting the area with travelling fairs and shows. No nuisances have been observed and no cases of infectious disease have been notified.

Many of the caravans licensed have been stationed on building sites and the caravans have been used as housing accommodation until such time as the building has been completed. There is, therefore, a regular change in many sites and caravans used for human habitation. It is to be hoped that as facilities for building houses increase, there will be a diminishing need for the use of caravans for housing purposes.

Last year a site was approved in the Tilehurst area for the stationing of caravans. A water-carriage system of drainage was installed and brick-built sanitary blocks were provided. This site was extended during the year under review, so that there is now a total of 41 caravans on the site. The standard adopted in this case has been one W.C. for three caravans and the sanitary blocks provide wash house facilities at the rate of one per ten families. All approaches to the caravans are paved and adequate water supplies are laid at various points on the site. The site has been well maintained and no complaints have been received in connection with it.

There is one other medium size site in the town which accommodates 14 caravans. A standard of sanitation similar to the one previously mentioned was applied in this case also. This site has been satisfactory during the year.

There was one instance during the year where caravans were stationed on an unlicensed site. Legal proceedings were instituted in this case and a fine of £6 imposed.

Swimming Baths. During the year 53 samples of water were taken from public swimming baths, one was reported unsatisfactory. The cause of the unsatisfactory sample was a mechanical defect in the filtration plant which was put right immediately on report. 22 satisfactory samples were also obtained from school baths in the town. There are 4 schools in the town provided with swimming baths and only one is not provided with automatic chlorination plant.

Drinking Water. 35 samples of water were obtained from private wells in the Borough, all of these proved satisfactory. Nine samples of water were also obtained from the towns mains and submitted for examination, all of which were the subject of satisfactory report.

4. GENERAL

Statistical Summary of Improvements and Repairs

Description of Work	Public Health Act	Housing Act	Factories Act	Food and Drugs Act
Accumulations removed	—	—	—	1
Decorations renewed	—	6	2	2
Chimneys repaired or renewed ...	2	19	—	1
Downspouts repaired or renewed ...	5	12	—	2
Fireplaces and kitchen grates, etc., repaired or renewed... ..	3	31	1	1
Floors repaired or renewed	11	41	1	2
Ceilings repaired or renewed	7	48	—	1
Gutters repaired or renewed	12	46	—	—
Plasterwork repaired or renewed ...	8	49	—	3
Passages repaired	—	4	—	—
Roofs repaired or renewed	43	90	—	—
Staircases repaired or renewed ...	2	10	—	—
Walls repaired or renewed	5	55	—	1
Windows repaired or renewed	6	88	—	1
Woodwork (general) repaired or renewed	4	23	—	—
Yards repaired	—	1	—	1
Dampness remedied	—	52	—	—
Coppers repaired or renewed	—	5	—	—
W.C. accommodation repaired or renewed	15	9	2	—
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed ...	12	19	1	—
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	20	8	—	—
W.C. hopper pan conversions	2	—	—	—
Sufficient water supply provided ...	—	—	—	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	10	8	1	1
Sink wastes repaired or renewed ...	3	1	—	2
Drains tested	1	—	—	—
Drains cleared, repaired or renewed	81	1	—	—
Houses let-in-lodgings (under Byelaws)	1	—	—	—
Nuisances abated (General)	1	—	—	—
Food preparing premises cleansed ...	—	—	1	2
Kitchens cleansed	—	—	—	1
Factories cleansed	—	—	1	—
W.C. accommodation separate for sexes	—	1	1	3
Lighting and ventilation improved ...	1	1	1	—
Fish shops	—	—	—	1
Fried fish and chip shops	—	—	1	2
Hot water supply provided	—	—	—	5

Factories Acts, 1937-1948. There are 644 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose. 288 visits were paid by the District Inspectors.

Five complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories and 10 written notices were served during the year.

List of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act returned 82 outworkers who

were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 2 were referred to other Local Authorities and 80 were in the Borough, whose premises were visited by the District Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	123	63	2
Factories with mechanical power ...	521	225	8
	644	288	10

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	2
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	3
Total	10	10	—	5

Close liaison was continued throughout the year with other Departments; plans submitted to the Local Authority concerning new buildings and alterations to existing premises were perused by this department and appropriate recommendations were made in a number of cases. Consultation also took place with the Borough Surveyor's Department with regard to a number of matters, in particular in relation to the prevention of nuisance from proposed industrial and trade development.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951. There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles.

Six visits were paid to these premises and 6 samples were taken. All of these samples were satisfactory.

Canal Boats. Thirty-eight visits were made to the wharves on the Thames and Kennet. It would appear that waterborne traffic

has entirely ceased and the Kennet and Avon canal fallen into disuse as a means of transport.

No canal boats were seen during the year and there are none on the register.

Places of Entertainment. Fourteen visits were paid to the various places of public entertainment. There were no complaints by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

Shops Acts. There has been no change in the duties carried out in the Sanitary's Inspector's Section. Seven complaints were received from the Shops Inspector. In five cases certificates of exemption were granted and in the remaining two no action was necessary.

Pet Animals Act, 1951. Six licences were issued in 1953 under the above Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The work of rodent destruction continues to receive the close attention of the Department. During the year 12,408 visits were made to premises in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. 121 business premises and 645 private dwellings were found to be infested with rats or mice. Wherever practicable, surface infestations are dealt with by the block system, which includes treatment of the sewers and private drains in the neighbourhood of the infestation. Wherever it was found that the primary cause of rat infestation was defective drains, representation was made to the owner concerned, and in 16 such cases, the drains were satisfactorily repaired. The main sewers were again systematically treated twice during the year in order to reduce rat population. The number of baits found untouched is evidence of the decreasing population in the sewers. The sewage works and refuse tips in the town were treated regularly during the year.

Wherever it was necessary, proofing measures were recommended to the owners concerned, and some 37 premises, both business and private, were proofed during the year. Regular inspections have been made at the hospitals in the town ; generally, conditions have been found to be satisfactory, but wherever necessary treatment has been carried out.

A statistical summary of rodent control work is shown on page 123.

Other Pests. In addition to the work carried out in respect of infestation by rats and mice, the Section dealt with 201 complaints concerning rabbits, moles, pigeons, badgers, grey squirrels, bats, etc., 151 wasps' nests were destroyed, and the combs removed in

141 cases. In the remaining cases, it was not possible to remove the combs and further visits were made to ensure that the nests had been satisfactorily destroyed. There was a large increase in the number of complaints of wasps' nests compared with the previous year, when 68 were dealt with.

Considerable attention has again been needed in dealing with the nuisance from pigeons which is a very difficult problem. Advice is given to owners and occupiers of premises where trouble is experienced, but the closest co-operation is needed if any degree of success is to be achieved. However, a number of buildings have been proofed against these pests, netting being fixed to the parapets, gutters and fascias, etc., making such nesting places inaccessible to the pigeons. During the year 196 pigeons were trapped and 274 eggs destroyed.

RODENT CONTROL

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Sewer Maintenance Treatment (Manholes)	Refuse Tips	Corporation Property	Total
Complaints received ... 710	693	124	—	7	35	859
Complaints on Survey, etc. 149	9,387	2,372	740	74	575	13,148
Visits	52	7	178	—	—	237
Premises found clear	645	121	128	4	31	929
Premises found infested	387	163	Nil	28	41	619
Number of rats picked up	950	363	79	85	96	1,573
Estimated kill—rats	433	230	—	—	91	754
Number of Mice picked up	1,164	756	—	—	166	2,086
Estimated kill—Mice						

COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. K. H. Thorpe, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, has supplied the following information :—

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

During 1954, the collection of house refuse has continued once weekly. The service is maintained by 14 house refuse collection vehicles and 54 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of house refuse collected from premises within the Borough with the total mileage of vehicles used in this collection :—

Quarter ending :				1954		1953	
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	...	8,107	28,014	8,250	27,969
30th June	...	...	...	8,437	28,070	7,592	27,644
30th September	...	...	...	8,316	30,005	7,488	29,929
31st December	...	...	...	8,474	30,068	8,226	29,934
Totals				33,334	116,157	31,556	115,476

Trade refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal Tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

KITCHEN WASTE

Householders are encouraged to keep kitchen waste separate from house refuse, and it is collected from street bins and over 3,000 individual containers. Waste food is also collected from restaurants, canteens and other catering establishments. All the waste food collected is processed in the Concentrator Plant and then sold to local pig and poultry keepers.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

Controlled tipping on a modernised mechanical system is still being continued at the site situated on the banks of the Kennet and Avon Canal. During the year tipping operations were completed on the site adjacent to the Presentation College, Bath Road.

STREET CLEANSING

The "beat" system of street cleansing by street orderlies has been maintained and proves to be a satisfactory method. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks which are visited by street cleansing freighters for the collection of accumulated refuse.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing :—

			1954	1953
Men	...	...	40	44
Boys	...	...	1	Nil

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of the collection vehicles (the table includes figures for the two mechanical sweeper collectors).

Quarter ending :			1954		1953	
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	760	2,724	943	4,540
30th June	...	...	950	4,426	760	3,910
30th September	...	...	870	4,253	748	2,827
31st December	...	...	830	4,054	778	3,502
Totals			3,410	15,457	3,229	14,779

STREET GULLY CLEANSING

7,856 street gullies were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles.

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1953-1954 :—

Quarter ending :			1954		1953	
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	496	2,666	440	2,575
30th June	...	...	388	1,954	379	3,142
30th September	...	...	515	2,274	455	3,122
31st December	...	...	613	2,635	643	2,772
Totals			2,012	9,529	1,917	11,611

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

All domestic cesspools are emptied by two mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles upon receipt of instructions from occupiers or owners of premises, within the Borough, with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

MANOR FARM SEWAGE WORKS

The total volume of raw sewage received was 1,945,000,000 gallons which is the highest annual flow ever received at Manor

Farm, being almost 10% greater than in 1953 and equivalent to a daily average flow of 5,331,000 gallons.

The average daily volume of air supplied to the activated sludge plant was 2,543,000 cubic feet, equivalent to 0.705 cubic feet of air per gallon of sewage passed through this plant.

The filter beds were dosed at the rate of 158 gallons per cubic yard.

Generally, the final effluent discharged from the works was not satisfactory by the Thames Conservancy standards.

The raw sewage has been chlorinated throughout the year to alleviate the odour nuisance and other measures such as reduction of sedimentation retention time and improved sludge digestion have been adopted, pending the construction of the new works, in an attempt to minimise the aerial nuisance.

The trial borings have been made on the proposed site of the new sewage works and it is hoped that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will soon give financial sanction to the scheme, thus allowing detailed design work to proceed.

Considerable work has been carried out during the year on the control of trade effluents being discharged to the sewers.

CAVERSHAM SEWAGE WORKS

An average of 90,000 gallons per day of raw sewage was pumped from this works to Manor Farm. The final effluent discharged from this plant was usually satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

During the twelve months ending December 31st, 1954, there were 598 houses or flats connected to the foul sewerage system. Of these properties 307 were new Corporation houses, 181 were private houses, 18 were additional flats (house conversions), 14 were existing houses which had abandoned cesspool drainage and 78 were houses outside the Borough. There were 9 houses built with cesspool drainage so that allowing for the 14 houses which had abandoned cesspool drainage and one which was demolished, the number of houses not connected to foul sewers was reduced by 6 to 548.

The only major drainage work completed in the year was the Watlington Street, etc., surface water sewer, which was constructed to prevent flooding in that area including the basement of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

SWIMMING AND SLIPPER BATHS

The Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths were completed and opened to the public on May 10th, 1954, and they are being well patronised.

REHOUSING

Mr. C. H. R. Willett, the Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information :—

The number of houses completed during 1954 totalled 505, of which 296 were Local Authority, 12 Reading Family Housing Association and 198 Private Enterprise, bringing the total completed since 1945 to 3,149. It will be noticed that the number of Local Authority houses completed fell somewhat compared with the record of 660 for 1953. This was inevitable, owing to the change over to the new sites mentioned in the 1953 report, i.e. Valley Estate, St. Michael's Estate and Brockley Close (Links Estate extension). Good progress has, however, been made on these sites as well as the 30 flats at Star Road, Caversham, also started during 1954, so that the total completions for 1955 should again show an upward trend.

The demand for Council houses remains steady in spite of the number of applicants re-housed each year and this is probably accounted for by the increased population of the Borough and the higher marriage rate. Further, the population of the County as a whole is increasing and this inevitably affects Reading as the County Borough.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Part III & IV

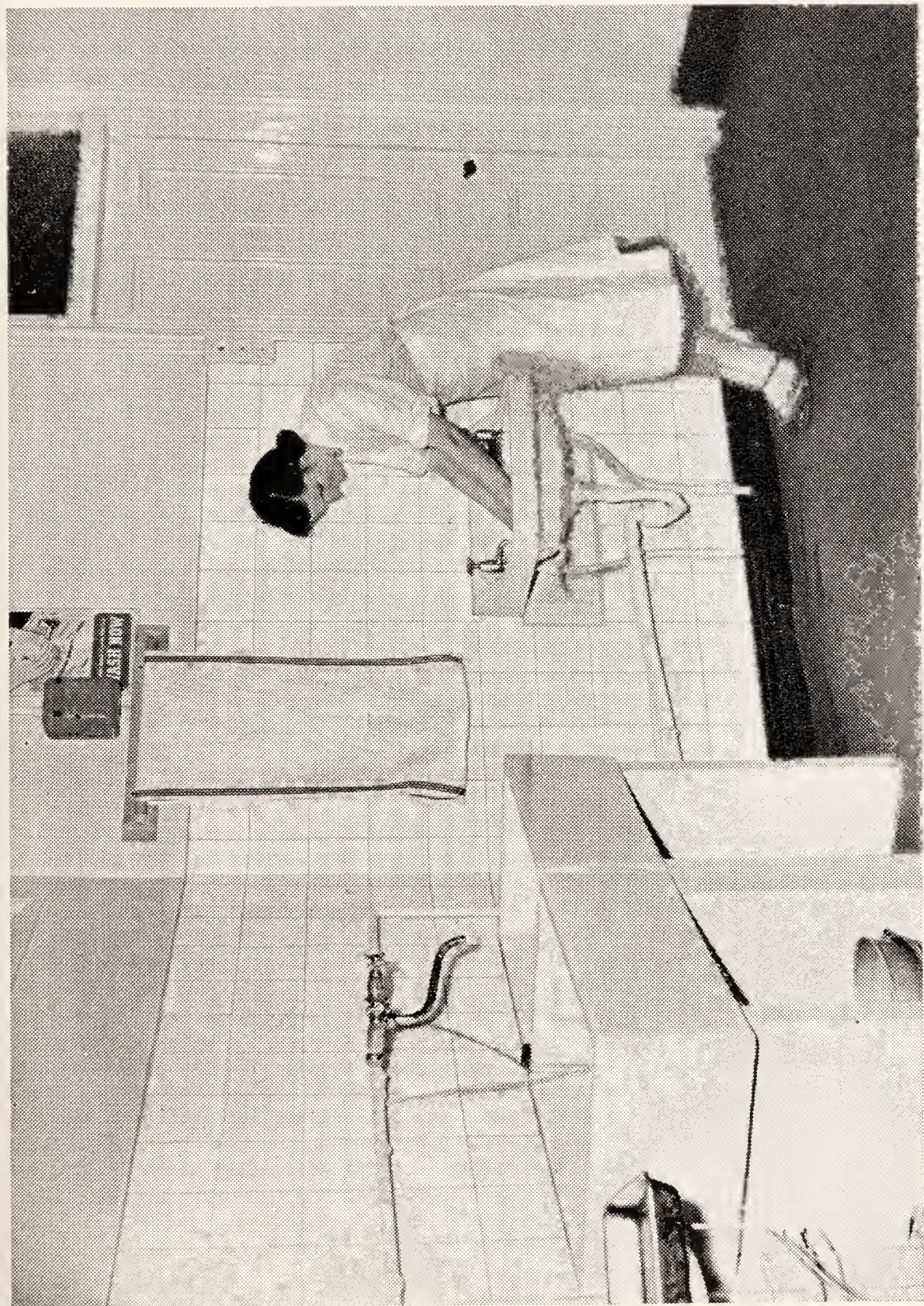
SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

(a) **General Considerations.** The need for accommodation of all types for old people was kept constantly under review during the year. It is now axiomatic that old people should, so far as possible, be encouraged and helped to live their own lives either in the accommodation which they already occupy or in specially built bungalows or maisonettes. The amount of this type of accommodation available must obviously reflect on the need for Part III accommodation, and I was, therefore, particularly pleased when the Council agreed to set up a special liaison committee of the Housing and Health Committees to keep the position constantly under review. The Committee has had a number of meetings and has made recommendations which, I am sure, will be of benefit to the old people in the town. I would like to pay special tribute to the way in which the Borough Architect has interested himself in the proposals which have been put forward for the provision of special accommodation for old people.

After discussion with representatives of the Ministry of Health it was decided that our target for Part III beds should be 350. We are some way from achieving this target, but, so far as one can see at present, this number of beds should provide reasonable cover for those old people for whom there is no alternative but admission to a hostel.

In these days of free employment it is not easy to find people who are willing to undertake a seven-day week job, including bank holidays. This difficulty of recruitment of staff may well be a vital factor in deciding the number of Part III beds which can be provided. It is certainly a factor which militates against the provision of small homes, desirable as these may be in many respects. A further difficulty is the increasing infirmity of many of the residents. This necessitates an increasing amount of nursing work and, in turn, will lead to higher staff/resident ratio.

(b) **New Hostel.** In October it was learned that the Children's Department no longer required No. 3 Albert Road, Caversham, as a Children's Home and the premises were offered to the Health Committee as a use for a hostel for elderly people. The house has now been taken over for this purpose on the understanding that it is a stop-gap measure until we can get more *ad hoc* accommodation. Accommodation is provided for 20 female residents. It is decided to name this Home the Arthur Clark Home in honour of Alderman A. F. Clark, who has given over 35 years' continuous and devoted



WASHING FACILITIES IN A READING RESTAURANT KITCHEN

(Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of the Ministry of Food)

service to the Council and was a chairman of the Health Committee for a number of years. Few alterations or adaptations were required and the first residents were admitted early in December.

(c) **Proposed New Buildings.** Work went on steadily with the plans for the extension of Parkhurst although the actual work was not commenced until 1955. Sanction has also been obtained from the Ministry of Health to build a new Home for elderly people in Liebenrood Road during the financial year 1955/56.

(d) The following table shows the number of admissions, discharges and deaths during the year in our various Homes :—

	Admissions		Discharges		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
" Woodlands " ...	13	24	11	22	2	2
" Wychcotes " ...	—	6	—	6	—	—
" Warren House "	—	12	—	9	—	—
" Parkhurst " ...	14	—	14	—	—	—
Southern Hill ...	24	10	19	12	5	—
Arthur Clark Home	—	33	—	13	—	1
	51	85	44	62	7	3

Total No. of Residents on 31/3/55	83 Men
	128 Women
	—
	211
	—

The Committee will be interested to know that we have been able to free 18 houses, 2 flatlets, 1 maisonnette and 1 almshouse by the admission of elderly people to Part III accommodation.

SECTION 21 (b)—TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

(e) This matter is more fully discussed in the report of the Family Case worker. The fall in the use of the accommodation continued, particulars being as follows :

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions	1	34	19	54
Maintenance Days	—	—	—	142
Remaining on 31/3/55	1	—	2	3

SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

There were no alterations in the basic rate during the year and the following amounts were collected and paid to the Borough Treasurer:

			£	s.	d.
" Woodlands "	...	...	4,784	16	8
" Wychcotes "	...	...	1,096	6	2
" Warren House "	...	...	1,494	12	5
" Parkhurst "	...	...	2,170	18	7
Southern Hill	...	...	4,183	0	11
Arthur Clark Home	...	...	17	2	0
			<hr/>		
			£13,746	16	9
			<hr/>		

SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

Several cases have been dealt with under this Section, but it was only necessary to refer one case to the Ministry of Health with regard to financial responsibility under Section 32 (3). In this case, a ruling was given by the Ministry to Reading's advantage.

SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Relationship with the National Assistance Board has again been entirely satisfactory, and the officers of both Departments have been able to assist in providing satisfactory accommodation in any urgent cases that have arisen.

SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Cases under this Section continue to grow. Provision for badly physically handicapped persons, blind, epileptics, cripples and spastics, have been undertaken by the Council and Homes found in which they can receive the special attention required. Recently a new Home has been opened at Seer Green, Bucks, by the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics for young people suffering from this complaint, and the Reading Council were successful in securing two places for cases requiring such accommodation.

The following table gives an idea of the number of cases dealt with :—

				M.	F.
Aged Infirm	...	...	...	1	7
Blind	...	...	...	4	5
Cripples	...	...	...	1	2
Deaf and Dumb	...	...	...	1	—
Deaf	...	...	...	—	1
Epileptic	...	...	...	1	2
Spastic	...	...	...	2	—
				—	—
				10	17
				—	—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) **Deaf and Dumb.** Our arrangements with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf and Dumb continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. The following table gives particulars of the Register on December 31st, 1954 :—

				M.	F.
0-5	...	...	...	Nil	
5-16	...	...	...	10	11
15-65	...	...	...	30	32
65 plus	...	...	...	4	7
				—	—
				44	50
				—	—

Mr. C. Powell, Missioner, continued to give enthusiastic and devoted work to the welfare of the deaf and dumb throughout the year. He reports as follows on the activities which centred on the Reading Centre during the year :—

Religious. Religious services have been conducted throughout the year. Every Sunday in the Reading Centre, with other Services taken at Maidenhead, Slough and Oxford.

Holy Communion Services have been arranged. Local priests have conducted the services, which have been interpreted.

Various other services have been interpreted :—Marriage, Funeral, Baptism and Confirmation, not only in Church of England churches, but in others.

Mothers' Union. A Mothers' Union Branch is run. This also has various church services. In addition, handicraft classes have been held and basket and mat-making instruction has been given by Miss Saunders.

Welfare. Deaf have been visited in their homes. Sick deaf are visited in their homes, hospitals and mental establishments.

Interpretation has been provided in police stations, police courts, hospitals, doctors' surgeries, lawyers' offices and many other places.

Houses have been bought on behalf of deaf people. The necessary interviews with estate agents, building societies, and solicitors. Forms have been filled in. Enquiries have been made for deaf people. Interpretation and help has been afforded in many difficult and personal problems.

Placement. Some 24 deaf persons have been found employment. Regular visits were paid to places of employment where deaf are engaged. Visits were paid to settle differences, queries, to give interpretation between employers and employees where needed.

Social. The Reading Social Club is a most healthy and active one. Various parties have been organised. The Centre fields several teams in "hearing leagues":—billiards, table tennis, football, and cricket. Coach outings take place regularly to places of interest and other deaf clubs. A Rally was held at Henley-on-Thames, where our younger members participated in sports. Amongst new activities undertaken during the year were dancing classes and holidays for old age pensioners at Margate.

(b) **Hard of Hearing.** The Hon. Secretary of the Reading & District Hard of Hearing Association reports as follows:—

"I have much pleasure in presenting the Report of 1954. I think we can claim another successful year in every direction. We have had 16 new members this year.

The illustrated talks, both educational and cultural, have been well attended and, I feel, enjoyed by all, for they have been so varied and delightful that they could not fail to appeal to all tastes. Our energetic social chairman and secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, have kept us busy with social events. There have also been many trips to various shows, including the London Airport, which was a most interesting and instructive outing. Mr. Robertson has supported Mr. Hammond in all these activities. Miss Baston continues to act as secretary and treasurer of outing fund which plays a very helpful and worthy part in our work. Our magazine editors also have done an excellent job in keeping all events so well recorded which enables those who cannot get to our meetings a means of knowing and joining with us in our work and pleasures. It was thought necessary to raise the price from 1/6 to 2/6 per annum but the contents remain as interesting with the addition of a stiff cover.

We have had some delightful interchanges with the neighbouring clubs, which has been a means of forming new friendships besides the intercourse with other deaf members which is so beneficial to us all. The Youth Section is making great strides. Their energetic secretary, Mr. Dickens, and his committee have kept the ball rolling. They have film shows, socials, rambles and cycling outings and attend the dancing class. Mr. Dickens also serves on the B.A.H.D.H. as treasurer and the sum of £2 2s. 0d. has been given

to him for their Youth Section. It was proposed by our President in the spring that we affiliate with the National Institute for the Deaf but, although every member had a voting paper, it was defeated. The Canteen Committee, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Trevers, has continued to progress. Last June saw the last of rationing, but, with that freedom, came increased prices of butter, margarine, sugar, tea and milk and so reduced the margin of profit, but the committee have decided that they should make less profit rather than pass on the increased price to members, so a cup of tea and biscuits remain at 4d. During the year the Committee have spent £2 on crockery and we can now serve 70 people. From the net profit the Committee have voted the sum of £10 10s. 0d. to form the nucleus of the new Samaritan Fund, leaving a balance of £2 4s. 7d.

The Lip-Reading class continues to progress under the capable tuition of Miss Lawes. We have one lady from Assenden, nr. Henley, one gentleman from Basingstoke and one from Maidenhead, but only twelve members from our Hard of Hearing Association. Mr. Edmunds continued to act as Registrar. Our sick visitors are doing excellent work, not only among our own members but among other deaf people who have been brought to our knowledge with the desire that our Association can do something to help them. Our President has been very helpful in these cases. We have one or two members still very ill. Mrs. Trevers, Mrs. Creal, Miss Herridge and Mr. Edmunds have been very active in this noble work."

(c) WELFARE OF THE BLIND

The Blind Welfare Officer (Miss Lowe), who acts as Secretary of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, reports as follows :—

Register of Blind and Partially Sighted People. On December 31st, 1954, there are 240 blind people on the register, 95 males and 145 females. The age groups are as follows :—

			Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—
1-4 years	...	...	—	1	1
5-15	„	...	2	1	3
16-20	„	...	2	—	2
21-30	„	...	6	2	8
31-39	„	...	5	3	8
40-49	„	...	8	10	18
50-64	„	...	17	27	44
65 years and over	...	...	55	101	156
			—	—	—
			95	145	240
			—	—	—

Age at which Blindness occurred

			Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	12	12	24
1-4 years	...	...	—	3	3
5-15 „	...	...	5	2	7
16-20 „	...	...	4	2	6
21-30 „	...	...	7	3	10
31-39 „	...	...	5	10	15
40-49 „	...	...	9	12	21
50-64 „	...	...	18	36	54
65 years and over	...		35	65	100
			—	—	—
			95	145	240
			—	—	—

During the year there were 34 new registrations (1 being certified in Oxford), 5 transfers-in 27 deaths and 6 transfers-out resulting in an increase of 6 on the total for 1953. Of the 34 persons registered blind during the year 1 was a baby who later died and 21 were over 65 years of age.

Partially Sighted Register. There are 66 persons on this register at the end of the year, 21 males and 45 females. The age groups are as follows :—

			Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	...	...	—	—	—
5-15 years	...	...	1	3	4
16-20 „	...	...	—	3	3
21-49 „	...	...	4	6	10
50-64 „	...	...	3	4	7
65 years and over	...		13	29	42
			—	—	—
			21	45	66
			—	—	—

During the year there were 15 additions to the register, 3 people were re-examined and placed on the blind register, 4 died and 1 left the district resulting in a total increase of 7 on the total for 1953.

The register is divided into the following groups for those aged 16 and over :—

Persons near and prospectively blind	...	9
Persons mainly industrially handicapped		10
Persons requiring observation only	...	43

A Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons :

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—				
(a) No treatment... ..	5	—	—	14
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical)	20	5	—	8
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	9	3	—	3

Home Workers. The three Home Workers have continued throughout the year to maintain a good standard in their work as machine knitter, piano tuner and basket-maker.

Employed Blind Persons. Twenty blind persons and eight partially sighted are employed in various occupations as factory operatives, shorthand-typists, telephone operators, masseurs, etc.

Two young people who completed their training as shorthand-typists at the Royal College during the year both secured jobs without any delay and are enjoying their work, one at the National Library for the Blind and the other in the Regional office of the Ministry of Works.

One shorthand-typist has been promoted from a Regional Office in Reading to be secretary to one of the chief officers of the Ministry in London and travels there daily with the help of her guide dog. Three of our employed blind people have guide dogs.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind employ one of our men as their Appeals Organiser for Reading and Berkshire and he is continually striving to raise the amount collected locally, which is divided between the R.N.I.B. and the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, according to the terms of the Unification Agreement between these parties.

There have been no new applications for training during the year.

Education and Training. Two people are at present being trained for their future employment, one at the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, learning to be a machine-knitter and one at the Bristol Royal School of Industry doing basket-work.

One boy who is unemployable is a resident at the Royal School, Leatherhead, doing occupational work. It is reported that he will never reach the stage of becoming a technical trainee but has undoubtedly improved tremendously in self reliance.

The National Library and Talking Book Library. Twenty readers of Braille or Moon embossed type enjoy receiving their books from the National Library. Cost of membership is covered for them by the Council's subscription to the Library.

Seventeen blind persons (apart from St. Dunstaners) have Talking Book Machines loaned to them and a great deal of pleasure is derived from these. Sixteen machines are clockwork and one is electrically driven. Delivery of three more electric models is expected in the near future and these will be appreciated by old people who are alone and find the winding of their clockwork machine a difficulty.

Winter Coal. The improved financial position of the Voluntary Association made it possible to give all the blind people a gift of coal before Christmas. Those aged 70 years and over received 10 cwts. each, 60 years and over, 5 cwts., and others, 2 cwts. each. The recipients are particularly grateful for coal and it is considered one of the best ways of giving extra help and comfort.

Holiday Fund. Sixty-six people saved up for their holidays during the year and a total of £170 15s. 10d. was paid out in bonus and towards cost of fares.

Shop Sales. The amount from shop sales during the year has not varied from last year. We find it increasingly difficult to sell the machine-knitted socks of which we hold a large stock, but the Basket-makers' Class have produced a number of small articles which have sold well and helped to maintain our sales total at £300 for the year. We are also selling goods made by other disabled persons which gives us a greater variety of articles to offer and provides a shop for the sale of goods made by these people in their own homes.

Social Activities. The weather during 1954 made rather sad stories of our outdoor events, a day at Bournemouth in May when it rained all day and in July a "Garden Party" which had to be held indoors. However, neither of these functions lacked enjoyment for those who were present. The half-day outing to Wallingford was more successful and though it was not warm enough to have tea served outside, many enjoyed walking and sitting in the garden by the Thames.

The weekly Pastime Classes have been increased this year. Additional morning classes for the Basket workers have been commenced by special request so that those who are able to manage the journey in the daylight can come in the mornings during the winter months. Some enthusiasts have attended both morning and afternoon.

Free Passes. The Association is indebted to the Corporation and to the Thames Valley Traction Co. Ltd., for free travel for the blind on their buses; also to the Management of the Everyman and Palace Theatres and most of the Reading Cinemas who grant free admission to a number of blind people each week.

Our thanks are also due to the members of Toc H and Round Table who use their cars to transport the blind and to the members of Park Congregational Rover Crew who re-paint our white sticks.

(c) REPORT OF CONSULTING OPHTHALMIC SURGEON

Mr. G. T. Willoughby Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with the work he has undertaken during the year :—

During 1954, 52 cases were examined for admission to the Blind Register. Four of these have been examined once previously and one case twice previously.

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially Sighted	Total
Cataract	7	1	5	13
Glaucoma	4	—	—	4
Myopia	5	—	2	7
Retinal Conditions... ..	3	—	2	5
Congenital Conditions ...	4	—	2	6
Infective Conditions ...	2	—	2	4
Degenerative Conditions ...	6	—	4	10
Neurological Conditions ...	1	—	—	1
Cerebral Tumour	1	—	1	2
	33	1	18	52

Ages.

Under 20	20-30	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90
1	2	3	7	8	13	18

Cataract. Of the 7 patients certified blind 5 could be operated upon. Operation on the other 2 patients was inadvisable, owing to macula degeneration in one case and diabetic retinopathy in the other. Two of the partially sighted patients could be operated on.

The other patients were complicated by chronic glaucoma, Fuchs' endothelial dystrophy and diabetes, respectively.

Glaucoma. One of these patients had been examined by opticians only and had never had medical attention. Two patients retained fair central vision.

Myopia. These five patients certified blind were suffering respectively, in addition to the myopia, from macula degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, posterior polar cataract, bilateral corneal nebulae and lens sclerosis. There was a possibility that the last patient might be operated on. One of the partially sighted patients also had cataracts and could now have an operation.

Retinal Conditions. One of the patients was suffering from a diabetic retinopathy, one from thrombosis of the central retinal vein in each eye and the third from pigmentary degeneration of the retina with a strong family history of this condition. Of the two partially sighted patients one had had a central retinal vein thrombosis in one eye followed by glaucoma and had had a successful cataract extraction in the other. The other patient had senile macula degeneration.

Congenital Conditions. The four patients certified blind consisted of two cases of congenital cataract, one of sub-luxation of the lens with retinal detachment and one of coloboma of the iris, retina, choroid and optic disc in each eye. Of the two partially sighted patients one had congenital cataracts and one bilateral macula coloboma.

Infective Conditions. Both patients certified blind suffered from keratitis.

Degenerative Conditions. All the patients, except one, blind under this heading had senile macula degeneration. The one exception had a mature cataract in one eye and in the other, which had had a successful cataract extraction with a central vision of 6/12, the visual field was markedly reduced due to arterio sclerotic atrophy of the optic nerve. The partially sighted patients were all suffering from macula degeneration.

Cerebral Tumour. The blind patient was suffering from post-papillitic atrophy due to a cerebral tumour. The partially sighted patient had a vision of 6/9 in one eye with constricted field and only perception of light in the other due to a cerebral tumour.

Neurological Conditions. This patient was suffering from neuro-myelitis optica.

(d) OTHER CLASSES OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

The following table gives particulars of the Register at the end of the year :—

Register of Other Classes of Handicapped Persons

	Male	Female	Total
Total Number referred by Agencies	65	68	133
Visited by Welfare Officer	—	—	56

Assisted by Council—

(a) Appliances supplied	—	—	3
(b) Domestic alterations	—	—	3
(c) Re-housed	—	—	3
(d) Handicraft Instruction	—	—	27
Advice given	—	—	19

Classification of Disabilities

A/E (Amputation)	—	—	3
F (Arthritis and Rheumatism)	—	—	13
G (Congenital Abnormalities)	—	—	12
H/L (Dis. of digestive, genito urinary, heart, skin, respiratory)	—	—	12
Q/T (Injuries of head, etc.)	—	—	8
V (Organic nervous diseases)	—	—	26
U/W (Neuroses, psychosis)... ..	—	—	76
X (Tuberculosis (Respiratory))	—	—	1
Y (Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory))	—	—	1
Z (Others)	—	—	2

Grouping

A (Capable of work under ordinary conditions)	—	—	3
B (Mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops)	—	—	13
C (Capable of work at home)	—	—	15
D (Incapable of or not available for work)	—	—	28
E (Children under 16)	—	—	—

After careful consideration, it was decided to proceed rather cautiously with the implementation of our scheme and for this purpose the services of a part-time welfare officer and part-time

instructor in handicrafts were obtained. We have received co-operation from such agencies as the National Assistance Board and the B.R.C.S., and one of the things we have found is that most of the people whose names have been given to us are already under the care of some organisation or other. For example, we found that a lot of the people whose names had been given to us by the National Assistance Board were, in fact, ascertained mental defectives and already under supervision. Furthermore a high proportion of the people who have been referred to us have been elderly people. There has also been a good deal of discussion as to whether or not the scheme should be publicised with a view to inviting applications for help, but in view of the limited facilities for help which are available, I feel that it is much wiser to proceed on the basis of dealing with individual cases referred from hospital almoners, the Council of Social Service, and similar people. I am glad to be able to report that the good relations which have been manifest between the hospital authorities and ourselves have been maintained in this sphere of work.

Miss Nunn held a class every Wednesday afternoon at 31a London Street, which was attended by 9 people on the register. Furthermore she visited and helped 18 people in their own homes during the year. At the beginning of 1955 it has also been possible to start another class at the Whitley Community Centre. People who attend these classes are encouraged to do such work as basket-work, jewellery, embroidery, leatherwork and stool making. They are free to dispose of the finished products once they have paid for the cost of materials. Unfortunately, but necessarily, this scheme does involve the organiser of the class in a great deal of clerical work.

We have worked closely with the Appliances Section of the Ministry of Health, more especially in relation to patients who are suffering from paraplegia. In three cases the Ministry of Health has supplied a self-propelled chair and a garage but the Council has been responsible for the necessary runway to the garage and for necessary alterations to the house, e.g. by the installation of supporting bars, or hoists in appropriate places. We find it a great advantage that this work is carried out by the Health Department, for this means that we are also responsible for the provision of nursing articles and for district nursing which are so important in these cases.

I find it difficult to make any estimate of the degree to which this work will expand. It may well be that it will occupy the whole time of a sizeable section of the Department but my experience over the past year or so confirms my belief that we were wise to proceed cautiously.

No attempt has been made to embark on a scheme for sheltered employment or home employment for other classes of handicapped persons. Some representations have been made in this matter but we will have to consider very carefully before making any definite steps.

SECTION 31—MEALS FOR OLD PEOPLE

The following table gives the number of meals supplied by the W.V.S. during the year :—

January	...	...	...	483
February	...	...	...	588
March	...	...	...	709
April	...	...	...	633
May	...	...	...	558
June	...	...	...	633
July	...	...	...	517
August	...	...	...	469
September	...	...	...	504
October	...	...	...	495
November	...	...	...	580
December	...	...	...	711
				<hr/> 6,880 <hr/>

A number of discussions took place about finding more suitable premises for the cooking of these meals but no definite decision had been arrived at before the end of the year.

It must also be reported that Domestic Helps supplied an even greater number of meals to people in their own homes.

SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

At the end of the year there were 8 such homes registered in Reading with a total of 78 beds.

SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

The Department has, in the past year, had a number of difficult cases to deal with, but it has not been necessary to take action under this Section. In practice it is found that tact, patience, and perseverance usually succeeds and is to be preferred to Court action.

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

During the year there have been 6 burials (3 males, 3 females) and 9 cremations (all males). A considerable proportion of the cost has been recovered from insurances, National Health Death Grants, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Cremation. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to Reading Crematorium. The following table gives an idea of the steady increase in the number of cremations over the last eleven years :—

1954	...	...	...	...	869
1953	...	...	...	...	891
1952	...	...	...	...	675
1951	...	...	...	...	763
1950	...	...	...	...	576
1949	...	...	...	...	524
1948	...	...	...	...	444
1947	...	...	...	...	407
1946	...	...	...	...	344
1945	...	...	...	...	378
1944	...	...	...	...	346

The number of cremations of borough residents was 351

The number of cremations of non-borough residents 518

Public Health Laboratory Service. The valuable work of the Public Health Laboratory continued throughout the year and I am very grateful to Dr. Wood, Director of the Reading Laboratory, for his help and co-operation on many occasions. Unfortunately, it is not possible to present particulars of examinations which applied only to Reading.

Nursing Homes. At the end of the year 7 nursing homes were registered providing accommodation for 32 maternity patients and 52 others. All homes were inspected during the year.

Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948. At the end of the year there were 4 child minders registered in the town in respect of 54 children.

